Δ Thanks to His Parental Care

Δ Musan Workers

Korea Today

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Poster: Mass Gymnastic and Artistic Performance “Arirang”.

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CONTENTS

Symbol of Our Principles and Faith *(p. 31)*

The gun of revolution President Kim Il Sung held up 70 years ago is still firmly maintained, on the strength of the army-centred idea of leader Kim Jong Il.

Birth of 300th Set of Triplets *(p. 42)*

The 300th set of triplets was born at the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital in December last year. Their mother, Sin Yong Ok, works at the Tonghung Cooperative Farm in Kim Hyong Gwon County, Ryanggang Province.

President's Everlasting Achievements 2
Thanks to His Parental Care 4
A Parent of All Schoolchildren 7
Brief History of the Revolutionary Activities of President Kim Il Sung.....8
With the Passage of Time.....17
Torch of Ranam Lights the Whole Country 18
The National Mineral Resources Survey Group 22
Five-Point Policy of Great National Unity—A Programme for Reunification 23

From Kim Il Sung's Reminiscences "With the Century"
Fighters from Northern Manchuria 24

The Woman Who Lives on in the Minds of the People.....27
Victorious Spirit of the Pyongyang Declaration 30
KPA Celebrates 70th Anniversary of Its Founding 32
Mangyongdae, the Place Dear to People's Hearts 36
Women With a Dream 41
The Motherland to Which He Returned in His Last Years.....44
On World Health Day 46
Outrageous Crackdown 47
Massacres Will Never Be Forgotten.....48

Front Cover: **On the Way to Mansu Hill on the Day of the Sun**

The Day of the Sun, April 15, is the birthday of President Kim Il Sung. Every year on this day, the Korean people visit his statue on Mansu Hill to renew their pledge to faithfully implement the President's instructions.

Photo by So Myong Gun

Back Cover: **Mangyongdae Funfair**

Photo by Kim Jong Su

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President's Everlasting Achievements

THE Korean people are now celebrating the 90th birthday of President Kim Il Sung (April 15, the Day of the Sun) during a period in which they are hastening their vigorous advance to build a strong nation.

On this occasion, they are filled with more ardent yearning and deep reverence for President Kim Il Sung.

During a life spanning more than 80 years he created a new history carving out the destiny of the nation and performed immortal exploits which will go down in the annals of the era of independence. Under his superb leadership, the Korean people brightened the 20th century with victory and glory. Today they feel an infinite warmth welling up in their hearts, knowing that they lived under the wing of a truly great and benevolent, fatherly leader and at the same time, evince their resolve to complete his revolutionary cause under the guidance of Kim Jong Il, General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea.

President Kim Il Sung was a distinguished thinker and theoretician of the 20th century, a great master of leadership who performed ever-victorious feats, and a great sage of revolution gifted with lofty personality and virtue.

He fathered the Juche idea, developed it in depth and led the people to bring about a revolutionary turn in their ideology.

The Korean people successfully pushed forward with the revolution and construction in line with the ideas and intentions of the President, making the 20th century a century of prosperity in which a fundamental change was effected in the revolution and construction, and a century of glory in which the nation's dignity has been demonstrated all over the world.

President Kim Il Sung set an example by brilliantly carrying out revolutionary tasks of various forms over many stages.

He steered to victory the two stages of the social revolution (the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution and the socialist revolution), the reconstruction of the country on the ruins following Korea's liberation from Japanese colonial rule (1945) and the Korean war against the US imperialists (1950-1953), and the two revolutionary wars to liberate the country and safeguard national sovereignty. He built up a strong country of independence, self-reliance and self-defence, where man-centred socialism has been realized, by carving out the road of socialist construction in a unique way.

In leading the Korean revolution he broke new ground: establishing a new type of working-class party, revolutionary armed forces and people's power. He also saw that an independent national economy was firmly built in this land.

Today our people are putting spurs to the building of a prosperous socialist power by relying upon the invincible revolutionary armed forces, the power of the state and the immense potential of the economy, under the guidance of the WPK, the seasoned general staff of the revolution, unaffected by the political and economic upheaval affecting the world. This is entirely due to the revolutionary achievements of President Kim Il Sung, who provided the people with the political, military and economic muscle to complete the cause of Juche.

The President regarded "The people are my God" as his lifetime motto and bestowed warm paternal love on the people, sharing the sweets and bitters with them. It was this that made it possible to turn the whole of society into a single, great, harmonious family based on revolutionary comradeship and a sense of duty, turning Korea into a country of single-hearted unity.

His love for man, the nation and the country ensured that the people of south Korea and overseas compatriots were united with those of the DPRK under the banner of the great unity of the whole nation, and that the 70 million Koreans were able to dynamically hasten the nationwide march for the independent reunification of the country.

His whole life ran through with a lofty sense of responsibility for the destiny of the nation and boundless devotion to the world revolution.

President Kim Il Sung put forward the outstanding ideas and strategy for making the world independent, and spared no efforts to put them into effect. He rendered sincere aid to the revolutionaries and ordinary people of other countries at great expense. His noble traits and obligation to their cause are cherished dearly in the hearts of progressive humankind.

His ideas and achievements are the assets with which the Korean revolution can advance unwaveringly along the road of independence in the 21st century, too.

The 21st century is the century of independence.

Quotes from Kim Jong Il

"President Kim Il Sung is the great father who holds dear all the people and leads them, and the benevolent sun whom all the people follow and look up to."

"The founder king of our nation is Tangun, but the father of socialist Korea is the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung."

"The validity of his ideas, leadership and virtue is the three traits characteristic of the greatness of President Kim Il Sung."

Following the road of independence is the irresistible trend of the new century.

The President trained the Koreans to be an independent people invested with a strong national pride and ardent patriotic spirit. To say what they want to in any circumstances and follow the road of Juche they have chosen, irrespective of the road others choose to take—these are the revolutionary traits of the Korean people. As long as there are great people fighting with the unbending conviction in independence their leader gave them, the honour of the Korean nation will be displayed more highly in the new century.

The ideas and achievements of the President are the sure guarantee which enables the Korean people to implement army-centred policy.

The army-centred policy being carried out in an all-round way by Kim Jong Il, the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army, is the everlasting method of revolutionary politics and the almighty weapon for socialist construction.

The establishment of the foundations for army-centred politics by President Kim Il Sung ensured that the KPA could be trained to be a strong army, each of whose members is a match for a hundred foes. It also allowed the all-people national defence system to be established.

To turn Korea into a strong, prosperous country was the lifetime wish and grand vision of the President. Filled with a burning patriotic ardour, he built the foundations for national prosperity from scratch and devoted his all to strengthening the economic power of the state to the last moments of his life. His last message to the Korean people was an earnest request for them to achieve national prosperity, upholding the leadership of Kim Jong Il.

The history of the revolutionary struggle of the Korean people in the new century will be a struggle through which a new surge will be brought about, based on the idea and great cause of the President.

The historic path the country traveled in the 20th century, full of glory, left the imperishable traces of President Kim Il Sung and leader Kim Jong Il. The two leaders worked together through many years of a century dotted with storms and stresses, creating the history of ever-victorious leadership together. Always beside the President as he steered a path through the twists and turns was Kim Jong Il, and beside Kim Jong Il, under whom a new era of Juche-oriented revolution has been ushered in, always stood President Kim Il Sung.

The leadership of General Secretary Kim Jong Il of the WPK, who is in the vanguard of the Korean revolution in the new century, is geared to carrying into effect President Kim Il Sung's vision.

The achievements made by President Kim Il Sung for our people and humankind have brilliantly demonstrated their merit, accompanied by the triumphant progress of the Juche cause, thanks to Kim Jong Il. The revolutionary history of the President will be everlasting in the hearts and minds of the Korean people.

Kim Sun Ryong

Cultural Society Inaugurated in Peru

An inaugural ceremony of the Huacho, Peru, Cultural Society for the Study of the Juche Idea was recently held. Members of the Council of the Province including the deputy governor of the province, and other prominent figures in the area attended the ceremony.

Humberto Barbamitrani, deputy governor of the province, was elected honorary chairman of the society at the ceremony, and Delfina Cano Gonzalez, a member of the council, became the chairman.

Thanks to His Parental Care

Im Rok Jae, who had been the director of the DPRK Central Botanical Garden, died in mid-January. The following is what he said in his talk with a Korea Today reporter.

Though now at the age of 80, I still work for the development of the nation's botany as enthusiastically and vigorously as ever. This would be inconceivable without the affection and benefit I received from President Kim Il Sung.

Thirty-six years ago I was diagnosed as suffering from an incurable disease. I fell into deep despair as I came to realize that my life span was already defined. I had pushed myself to work hard because I had things I still wanted to achieve.

At dawn one day in July Juche 55 (1966), when it was still so dark with thick fog that you could not see clearly, the President unexpectedly called on me as I lay in my sickbed.

"How are you feeling? I heard that you had been taken ill," the President said, holding both my hands before I greeted him. He asked me in detail about my condition and the treatment I was receiving.

The time for breakfast suddenly arrived and, when my meal was brought in, he moved the dish of cooked wild edible greens closer to me, having somehow known that I liked the dish, and encouraged me to eat as much as I could. All the while he comforted me, telling me not to worry too much about my illness.

I had a lot to say about how much he worried about my poor condition. I am still moved to tears when I recall the time I underwent the last third operation.

He phoned the hospital workers to learn about my condition and urged relevant officials to personally go to see me, saying earnestly that only then could he feel relieved.

Even after that he again called the hospital's senior officials to sincerely ask them to cure me without fail, explaining that I was a valuable, talented and patriotic-minded scientist and one of those who he held most dear.

His loving care, as great as the sea, miraculously enabled me to recover and be reborn.

Greatly delighted at the news that I had completely recovered, he trustfully said that I had achieved much in the past and had a great contribution to make to the nation-building effort in the future, too.

He called me a patriot who had written the book "Korean Flora" to provide the basis of botanical research. The work involved collecting all the names of plants found in Korea, identifying and propagating those domestic plants which had previously disappeared, making specimens of all the domestic plants I myself collected and making a great contribution to creating forests of oil-bearing trees.

In recognition of what I did, the state awarded me the Order of Kim Il Sung and the titles of Labour Hero and People's Scientist.

As I have said the President's trust in and love for me knew no bounds. ❑

My Development

I was born the daughter of an ordinary peasant's family, and during the Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950-July 1953) I, as a girl with bobbed hair, guided a plough.

Now, however, I have developed into an official in charge of provincial farming thanks to the care of President Kim Il Sung.

It was in January Juche 41 (1952) that I met the President for the first time.

For more than 40 years afterwards he led me step by step, encouraging me whenever I was confronted with difficulties lest I should lose my self-belief.

I still remember the President smiling at the fields where yellow ears of rice rolled in the breeze on his visit to our cooperative in the autumn of Juche 47 (1958).

At that time I was the first chairperson of the then Ponghwa Cooperative, Kaechon County, my native place, South Phyongan Province.

Looking at the vast expanse of fields by the Chongchon River, the President said with great pleasure that the rice was ripened quite well. He then picked up an ear of rice and calculated the number of grains in

the ear, and even asked in detail about the quantity a peasant would get in the distribution of the rice.

He continued to teach me how to improve the management of our cooperative and develop the agricultural economy, and encouraged me to work more effectively before leaving.

Later, at every possible opportunity, he taught me how to run the cooperative, telling me about the experiences of other cooperatives. He would often ensure that farming materials were sent to our cooperative so that we could work well.

That's not all.

When I was at a loss to know where to begin after I was promoted to chairperson of the then Kaechon County Cooperative Farm Management Committee in my twenties, he paid more frequent visits to the county and advised me on all aspects of my work. One day, more than ten years later, he even praised me upon my good work.

He often took me on his on-the-spot guidance trips, giving me advice on how to carry out my duties.

When I became engrossed only in my work, he would arrange for me to visit celebrated spots around the country.

In order to broaden my view of the world, he once saw to it that I went abroad as the single farming representative of a delegation.

Thanks to his meticulous care I still work as enthusiastically as I did in my youth, despite having reached the age of 70.

Laureate of the Order of Kim Il Sung and Labour Heroine *Kim Rak Hui*, advisor-chairperson of the Rural Economy Committee of South Phyongan Province

Missing President Kim Il Sung More Than Ever

April arouses deep feelings of reverence for President Kim Il Sung in the hearts of the

Korean people. Every time the month comes round, I hear voices of admiration and praise for him, yet this year such emotions have been stronger in the run-up to his birthday on April 15. Experiencing another nationwide surge of respect for him, I recall the noble image of him, a man who used to plough his way through difficult situations on the strength of working people like me, mixing with them without any ceremony.

The following events happened in 1958, five years after the Korean people victoriously repulsed the armed invasion of the US imperialists. My factory had been turning out simple farming tools and machines like weeders and thrashers for only a few years. None of us had even considered making tractors.

One day in October, President Kim Il Sung came to inspect my factory. Shaking the workers' greasy hands, he talked about the importance of tractor production. "Our peasants have had to toil in the fields with outdated tools for too long," he said earnestly, and continued: "In order to free them from the backbreaking labour, we have no other choice but to manufacture tractors by ourselves in the spirit of self-reliance. We can not turn to other countries for this purpose."

Inspired by his words we managed to make a prototype tractor after repeated setbacks. But at the trial operation it rolled backwards despite its forward-gear position. Kim Il Sung, learning of our problem, still encouraged the workers, saying that the failure implied that the tractor could also be made to go forward.

It was thanks to his trust in us that we did not lose courage but instead struggled harder to successfully make the Chollima tractor No. 1.

Still vivid in my mind is the image of the President who was so happy to hear of the tractor that he asked us to drive it up to Pyongyang, and then welcomed us with a warm smile on his face as we arrived.

Afterwards, he often visited our plant to discuss factory matters with us workers and congratulate us on our achievements.

Working this way, Kim Il Sung built an independent national economy on a land where everything had been reduced to rubble during the last war.

The Korean people are now forcefully hastening the effort to build a strong socialist country by tapping the great potential of the independent economy. This is all thanks to the President's creation of the economic foundation for the completion of the Juche revolutionary cause.

I will soon greet my 80th birthday, yet I still work as advisor to a workshop manager at the factory. I am determined to carry the President's achievements forward under the guidance of the WPK General Secretary Kim Jong Il, reliving the spirit that I worked with as we made the country's first tractor.

Labour Hero *Hong Toe Phyo*, Kum Song Tractor Factory

Our President's Pastime

History has produced many anecdotes about the tastes of great men and famous generals.

What does President Kim Il Sung like best, and what does he most like to do? These were the questions that the people of the world wanted to know the answers to.

One particular anecdote clearly shows his taste.

In mid-April Juche 81 (1992), journalists of the "Washington Times" of the USA visited our country and, in an interview with the President, they asked him to tell them how he spent his free time.

He said with modesty that he had no special tastes in life, but he liked to read and spend time with the people.

The journalists were not only impressed but also greatly surprised. They had listened to other presidents and politicians say that they enjoyed hunting, fishing, swimming and the other forms of entertainment.

Chewing over and over again the profound meaning of his reply, which had seemed too simple and ordinary, they laid bare their feelings.

"Mr. President, you are the only great man in the world to have such a pastime."

Time for the People

Before giving on-the-spot guidance to Jagang Province, President Kim Il Sung called an official and, explaining the objectives of the tour, ordered him to make a schedule.

The official immediately went to the area and put together a schedule.

Considering the proposed visits, distance and time, 25 days were necessary for the guidance.

The official felt unsure about his proposal, because he thought that nearly a month of guidance to a single province was too long for the President, who took care of all the affairs of the Party and state. Another schedule was produced, with a reduced number of days and less time on the road. Visits to units in the same field were cancelled. By doing so, he could reduce the length of the tour by five days.

After receiving the schedule, the President researched the places he was to visit and the distance to be traveled each day. Saying that the schedule was too loose, he picked up a fountain-pen, rewrote the visits that the official had cancelled but cut the scheduled number of days from 20 to 7 days.

Dozens of stops were listed, in six cities and counties, and the total distance to be covered was over several thousand-ri of mountainous roads.

The official asked him to extend the schedule even by a few days, as he considered it too tight. The President answered as follows:

"Our time is precious, to be spent for the people. We should make effective use of every minute, every second."

Counting each day, he pointed out the units that should be given guidance that day, and the work that should be done there.

A Parent of All Schoolchildren

ON his way home after giving personal guidance to a cooperative farm, President Kim Il Sung stopped his car to see schoolchildren returning home after school.

Children raced each other to greet him.

He asked them which school they attended, what year they were in, and where they lived. Taking a satchel from a child's shoulder, he looked inside and saw a pencil case, textbooks and notebooks, and praised the boy for keeping his textbooks well and writing neatly.

Then he asked the children if they studied together after school, and what were the good points of their joint study.

The children vied with each other to tell him. One child, however, said it was good to use textbooks jointly.

Without asking them any more, he affirmed their answers and put the books and schoolthings back into the satchel and returned it to the boy, telling him to study well.

The President's car set off once again. Lost in deep thought for a while, he finally said, half to himself, that using textbooks jointly meant there was a shortage of textbooks. He then looked out of the car window in contemplation.

That same day he called a meeting of the Political Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea's Central Committee to discuss the preparations for the new school year. Taking measures to overcome the difficulties the nation's schools faced, he emphasized that though the printing of other publications had been postponed, paper for printing textbooks should be secured without fail, and the textbooks for primary school children should be of the best possible quality. Not content with this, he took a measure to form a committee to prepare for the new school year. It was to include senior officials of central, provincial, city and county organs.

Concluding the meeting, he said that this meeting of the Political Committee was a meeting of schoolchildren's parents. ❑

Rare Squids Sent to Kim Il Sung University

Rare squids for scientific research and education were recently sent to Kim Il Sung University, the most prestigious educational institution in the DPRK.

Two of the yellow-brown creatures, caught in the waters off Soho, South Hamgyong Province, belong to the Thysanoteuthis rhombus family, and are the largest of squids as their arms are shorter than their bodies.

One squid weighs 13 kg and is 1.34 m in total length, with the body length of 70 cm.

The other weighs 8.5 kg and is 1.15 m long with the body length of 63 cm.

Books and Modern Equipment Sent to Grand People's Study House

Last year, 5,000 books and tapes on modern science and technology and dozens of pieces of modern equipment were sent to the Grand People's Study House, a center of learning for all the Korean people.

Among the books and tapes are dictionaries and encyclopedias, including *Encyclopedia of Mathematics and Physics* and *A Guide to Electrical Engineering*, books and magazines covering fish-farming, such as *Fish Disease Prevention Techniques*, books and tapes on cooking, scientific and technological books, and magazines and tapes from various other fields.

There are also books on literature and music. In addition, modern computers, VCRs, copiers and laser printers were supplied to facilitate the modernization of the management of the GPSH.

Brief History of the Revolutionary Activities of President Kim Il Sung

President Kim Il Sung is the founder of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), and the founder of socialist Korea.

The President was born at Mangyongdae, Pyongyang, on April 15, Juche 1 (1912).

He set out on the road of the revolutionary struggle in his early years and formed the Down-with-Imperialism Union (DIU), the first genuinely communist revolutionary organization in Korea, on October 17, Juche 15 (1926). This was quickly followed by the organization of the Young Communist League of Korea in August 1927.

Kim II Sung made energetic endeavours to awaken and organize the popular masses by training a new generation of revolutionaries. In the course of this he was arrested by the reactionary police in the autumn of 1929, and was imprisoned until the spring of the following year.

Of all his achievements, the greatest was the creation of the Juche idea. On the basis of this philosophy, he put forward the Juche-based line of the Korean revolution.

On April 25, 1932 he founded the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army (AJPGA), and organized and led the anti-Japanese armed struggle.

The President stepped up his efforts to liberate the country with the foundation of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland (ARF), an organization of the anti-Japanese national united front, and was elected its chairman in May 1936. By uniting all the anti-Japanese forces of Korea he provided reliable internal revolutionary forces.

The historic cause of national liberation was realized in August 1945 thanks to his wise leadership of the arduous anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

After the country's liberation he put forward the line of building a new, democratic Korea and the task of building the Party, state and armed forces, organizing and leading the struggle for their implementation. On October 10, 1945, he formed the Central Organizing Committee of the Communist Party of North Korea, thus accomplishing the critically important task of Party founding.

He established the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea (PPCNK), a new form of government, and was elected its chairman in February 1946. An anti-imperialist, anti-feudal, democratic revolution was carried out in a short period of time.

In February 1947 he was elected chairman of the People's Committee of North Korea (PCNK).

He founded the DPRK in September 1948, and was immediately elected Premier of the DPRK Cabinet.

Not long after, in June 1950, he was elected Chairman of the DPRK Military Commission, and in July of the same year the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army, leading the country to victory in the Fatherland Liberation War against the US imperialists' aggression.

He victoriously organized and led the post-war reconstruction work and the building of the foundations of socialism, and converted the DPRK into a socialist industrial state by effecting the industrialization of the country in the short period of 14 years.

In October 1966 he was elected General Secretary of the WPK Central Committee, and became DPRK President in December 1972.

At the Sixth Congress of the WPK, held in October 1980, he advanced the task of strengthening the Party and vigorously expediting socialist construction, as well as the policy of reunifying Korea by the establishment of a Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo.

He set out the policy of global independence in a historic policy speech delivered to the joint conference of the WPK Central Committee and the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly in April 1982. That policy was further explained in many of his works, and he backed up his words by making every possible effort to defend world peace and security.

Throughout the long period from the time he embarked on the road of revolution in his early teens to the time he reached his eighties, he led the revolution and construction to victory. He passed away in July 1994, conducting energetic activities for the completion of the Juche revolutionary cause and the triumph of the cause of global independence to the last moments of his life.

For his enduring exploits he was awarded the title of DPRK Generalissimo, that of DPRK Hero (three times) and that of Labour Hero. In addition, he was honoured with more than 180 of the highest orders and medals of over 70 countries and international organizations, and received the title of honorary citizen from more than 30 cities and that of honorary professor or honorary doctor from over 20 renowned foreign universities.

Statues of the President have been erected in China and Mongolia. The International Kim Il Sung Prize has been instituted and is being awarded worldwide. More than 480 streets, institutions and organizations in more than 100 countries now bear his august name.

It is stipulated in the Socialist Constitution of the DPRK that he is the eternal President of the country.

Life Dedicated to the Nation

September Juche 77 (1988):President Kim Il Sung acknowledges a warm welcome.

Octocber Juche 69 (1980): President Kim Il Sung and leader Kim Jong Il attend the working people's evening celebration of the 35th anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) and its 6th Congress.

August Juche 71: The two leaders examine the prototype of a new farm machine.

April Juche 76 (1987): Inspecting the training of Korean People's Army soldiers.

November Juche 75: They visit the Sambong Cooperative Farm in Phyongwon County on the day of DPRK Supreme People's Assembly elections.

“President Kim Il Sung was not only a great leader but also a great revolutionary, a great man and a benevolent father of the people.”

KIM JONG IL

April Juche 71 (1982): Kim Il Sung among children.

October Juche 64: The President meets soldier-builders.

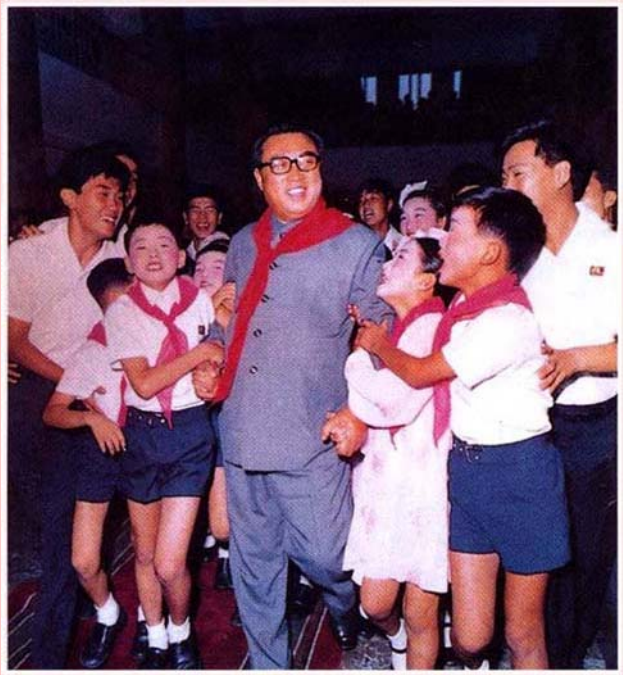
July Juche 69: Examining a model of the long-term plan for the development of the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Works.

April Juche 71 (1982): President Kim Il Sung gives personal guidance to the Pyongyang Department Store No.1.

June Juche 65: Labour Hero An Tal Su, management board chairman of the Sowon Cooperative Farm in Pyok-song County, is honoured to have a photograph taken with the top leader of the nation.

February Juche 80: The President visits the Kwangbop Temple on Mt. Taesong.

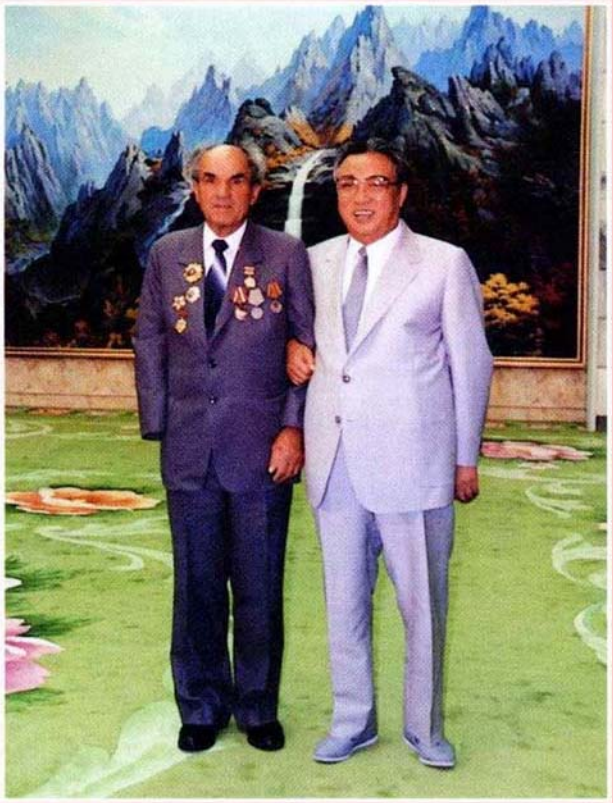
April Juche 82: The President, on his birthday, calls on the incarnation of faith and will Ri In Mo, who is ill in bed at the time.



August Juche 62:Showing warm care to the children of Korean residents in Japan.

March Juche 78: Receiving Rev. Moon Ik Hwan, advisor to the south Korean Alliance for a National Democratic Movement.

April Juche 74 (1985): President Kim Il Sung meets the son of Zhang Weihua and his company. ***(Zhang was a Chinese who offered sincere support, moral and material, to the Korean people in their anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.)***



July Juche 78 (1989): Kim Il Sung stands with the internationalist fighter Yakov Novichenko after a reception.

Kim Il Sung enjoys a warm welcome on a foreign visit.

With the Passage of Time

Guruh Sukarno Putra.

In April last year the 3rd Kimilsungia Show was held in Pyongyang, commemorating the 89th birthday of President Kim Il Sung.

Guruh Sukarno Putra, son of the former Indonesian President Sukarno, made a congratulatory speech at the opening ceremony of the show.

He said, "My father always thought from the bottom of his heart of the beautiful scenery of Korea and the kind-hearted Korean people, and in particular, regarded President Kim Il Sung as his close friend." He then recalled the emotional day of 36 years ago when he met the President, who was visiting Indonesia at the invitation of President Sukarno to participate in a function commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Bandung meeting.

President Kim Il Sung arrived in Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia in April Juche 54 (1965), and Sukarno Putra was immediately charmed by his benevolent and simple manner.

On April 13 when the President was inspecting a Bogor botanical garden, his Indonesian counterpart, indicating a precious orchid, told him earnestly that he wanted to name the flower Kimilsungia after his esteemed name.

This was the reason why Sukarno, who had long revered the President, had led him to the botanical garden.

In 1964, Sukarno, on receiving a report from the garden's director explaining that they had created a new kind of orchid, personally went to see the flower. It was truly a precious and beautiful flower. Looking at it he wanted to name the flower after a great man. He asked the director and botanists there what name they had given to the flower. They replied that they had still to name it.

He then said, "This is the most beautiful and precious flower I have ever seen. I intend to give it the name of His Excellency Kim Il Sung, for whom I have the deepest reverence."

This was how the immortal flower Kimilsungia came into being.

In 1975, just ten years later, the Indonesian botanists, on behalf of President Sukarno and the Indonesian people, presented the flower to President Kim Il Sung on the occasion of his 63rd birthday.

Looking back with deep emotion upon those days, Sukarno Putra said that naming the flower Kimilsungia was a demonstration of how much his father revered President Kim Il Sung, adding that the flower would be forever in full bloom in the minds of the peoples of the two countries.

Looking round the show, where hundreds of the full-bloomed flowers were on display, he described his feeling as follows:

"Kimilsungia symbolizes the tie of friendship between the President and my father, and between Indonesia and Korea.

"President Kim Il Sung is always alive in the hearts of mankind, and Kimilsungia will cover the whole world as long as Marshal Kim Jong Il is continuing the President's cause."

His comments make it clear that the progressive peoples of the world remain unchanged in their warm reverence for the President, despite the passage of time.

Choe Il

Upper Layer Meteorological Observation Device Developed

Scientists of the Academy of Sciences have recently developed an upper-layer meteorological observation device which was urgently required for the upgrading of meteorological observation in the country.

The device was produced in a short period of time by scientists of the Computer Science Institute, Automation Institute, and Control Machine Institute and Mechanical Engineering Institute under the Academy of Sciences, and in cooperation with the scientists of the Hydro-Meteorological Service and Pyongyang Meteorological Observatory.

It automatically observes temperature, humidity, air pressure and wind in the upper layer of the atmosphere, tens of thousands of meters above the earth's surface.

Torch of Ranam, Lights the Whole Country

The Torch of Ranam, a symbol of rapid progress and innovation in the new century, is now lighting up every corner of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It was kindled at the Ranam Coal Mining Machine Complex, one of the leading coal mining machine production centers in the northern region of the country, under the direct guidance of leader Kim Jong Il last year.

Filled with boundless patriotic ardour and looking forward to a prosperous future for their motherland, the workers at Ranam buckled down with one mind and with one will to manufacture important ordered equipment requiring ultra-modern science and technology, one of the tasks which leader Kim Jong Il had assigned to them while giving his on-the-spot guidance to their enterprise in August Juche 89 (2000). It was completed in less than a year with the workers' own efforts and strength, despite the difficult conditions they were working under.

They actively worked to provide everything they needed for production by setting themselves higher goals, in keeping with the requirement of the new century, and tapping hidden resources to turn potential into something tangible. At the same time, they did all work efficiently, always considering the profitability of their work. As a result, a radical change has been brought about in their working methods.

True to the ideas and leadership of Kim Jong Il and afire with a willingness to risk their lives in everything they do, without confining themselves to merely making idle promises and shouting slogans, they carried out their task in a short time at a high level. The spirit of carrying out one's tasks at the risk of one's life displayed by them met with a hearty response from the entire population, who are burning with a determination to build a strong and prosperous country on their land at any cost, a country which has powerful national strength and in which everything thrives and the people live happily, lacking nothing in the world.

A spark of innovation has spread all over the country.

"Let us speed up our revolutionary advance in the new century, following the Torch of Ranam lit by leader Kim Jong Il!"

Working people in all sectors and units of the national economy have risen up under this slogan.

They are constantly bringing about improvements in production, so as to support and defend the country with actual results like the workers at Ranam.

The managers and workers at the Ryongsong Machine Complex, a large machinery and equipment production centre, are redoubling their efforts to fulfill their assignments, saying that they must carry out all tasks without fail, even if they must move a mountain or dam rough seas if they are required by the country.

They met their targets for last year one month ahead of schedule and exceeded their January assignments this year, never slackening their spirited efforts in the least. At present they are striving to rationalize production, in conformity with the requirements of the era of the information industry. In parallel with this, they are forcefully pushing forward the project to equip all production processes, from the design stage to the manufacture of equipment, with modern technology.

As a result, modern and efficient machinery of high quality is being produced, including a new type of compressor.

The workers at the Huichon Machine-Tool Factory and the Kusong Machine-Tool Factory are also registering good results in the production of up-to-date machine tools by working hard, the same way the workers at Ranam do.

The Kusong Machine-Tool Factory, which made itself famous at an international exhibition through its NC lathe Kusong-104 product, is now accelerating the manufacture of a new type of machine tool.

Innovations are also being made in the metal industry.

Management and workers at the Songjin Steel Complex have introduced a new smelting method into the production process by fully displaying the spirit of the Ranam workers. This has enabled them to produce steel of good quality in larger quantities. Increased production is also being achieved at the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex and many other iron and steel plants.

Uninterrupted innovations have been made in the power and coal sectors, both of which play a key role in economic development.

Hydroelectric power stations in various parts of the country, including the Kanggye Youth Power Station, the Jangjingang Power Station and the Hochongang Power Station, and the thermal-power plants, including the Pyongyang Thermal-Power Complex and the Pukchang Thermal-Power Complex, are increasing power production, surmounting difficulties by their own efforts in the spirit and the manner of work of Ranam, even under unfavourable conditions.

The construction of large hydroelectric power stations and minor power stations is being propelled forward. The construction of Anbyon Youth Power Station No.2 is being accelerated towards completion. Having completed the major parts of the project in a short time, the builders there are currently stepping up the assembly of electric generators.

The Kaechon Area Coal Mining Complex, the Sunchon Area Youth Coal Mining Complex and many other coal mines across the country are striving to boost the production of coal, the fuel that drives the nation's industry.

Last month the February 8 Jikdong Youth Coal Mine and the Chonsong Youth Coal Mine markedly increased productivity on all indices, including tunneling and coal mining, as compared with the previous month.

The Torch of Ranam is shining brightly at light industrial factories as well.

Taking the lead in this sector are those factories which had the honour of receiving Kim Jong Il's on-the-spot guidance. They include the Sinuiju Textile Mill, the Sinuiju Cosmetics Factory, the Pakchon Silk Mill, the Kusong Textile Mill and the Kanggye Knitwear Factory.

Chicken and catfish plants equipped with modern machinery have been built in large numbers throughout the country and the project to modernize existing chicken plants is being stepped up.

Land realignment and other grand nature-harnessing projects are also making brisk headway.

The on-going construction of the Kaechon-Lake Thaesong waterway, intended to facilitate an increase in agricultural production, is nearing completion thanks to the strenuous efforts of the builders.

One of the key projects of the waterway construction is the Taegak dam, a large-scale undertaking to dam the River Taedong and work has now reached an advanced stage. Concrete tamping in the sections of hundreds of metres of the sluice dam and the spillway dam is being pushed forward in stages at the highest possible standards.

Many achievements are being registered in scientific research.

Upholding the idea of the Workers' Party of Korea, which regards the development of science as highly important, scientists and technicians at the Academy of Sciences are fulfilling their role as those directly entrusted with the task of scientific research. As a result, many good results of economic value and conducive to making the country strong and prosperous have been obtained in research.

Researchers at the Mechanical Engineering Research Institute manufactured hundreds of diamond cutting tools suited to the specific conditions of our country after conducting detailed research.

These tools are now widely used at the sites of crucial construction projects and are making a contribution to putting production back on a normal footing at mines.

In addition, the scientists are giving a helping hand to the solution of technical problems arising in various fields of the national economy by developing a base for super-precision processing, a centre for research and development of vacuum devices, and a facility for the production and testing of hydraulic equipment.

Researchers at the Automation Research Institute are accelerating the development of a new, ultramodern device which is badly needed in biotechnology research.

By making painstaking efforts, they finished the design stage for this device in a short period of time and then the assembly of a prototype. The manufacture of this device is nearing completion.

With this kind of creative enthusiasm and indefatigable commitment, workers in every sector of the economy are advancing dynamically, following the Torch of Ranam. ❑

Musan Workers

The workers at the Musan Mining Complex, Korea's leading iron ore production centre, are making fresh innovations in their production, inspired by the Torch of Ranam.

Musan's main activity is opencast mining.

An opencast branch mine and a number of smaller mines, the iron ore transportation station, overburden removal conveyor station and other stations, a truck maintenance factory, a chisel head workshop and other factories, and the prospecting team are all contributing their share to iron ore production.

Most of the iron ore they produce is sent to the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex and other major metallurgical factories in Korea.

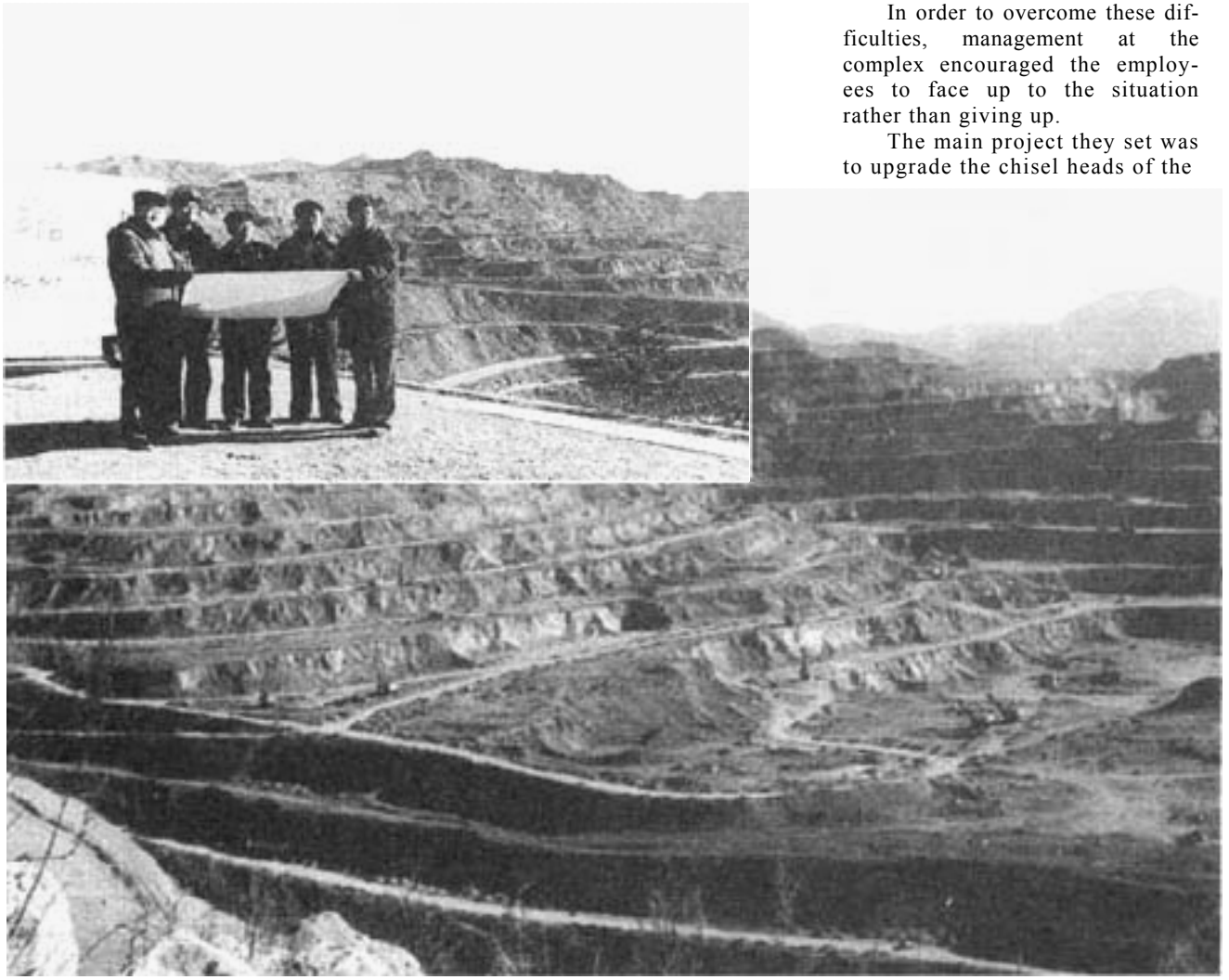
Like other industrial establishments, Musan underwent many trials during the difficult economic situation of the "Arduous March" period.

Fuel and spare parts required to run the complex's main equipment, such as large trucks, the $8m^3$ excavators, and rotation drills, were in short supply. Worse still, the workers constantly suffered food shortages.

In order to overcome these difficulties, management at the complex encouraged the employees to face up to the situation rather than giving up.

The main project they set was to upgrade the chisel heads of the

Managers are engrossed in discussion about ways of increasing production of concentrated iron ore.



rotation drills, which were in short supply at the time and had a short working life, being worn to a stump by even a relatively short drilling distance. This problem had been causing great problems for the smooth production of iron ore.

The technicians at the chisel head workshop became the main force of the project, and other technicians and workers joined them to give a helping hand.

Documentations on the world-standard chisel heads were studied and analyzed and a new type of chisel head was developed in line with the technical situation at the complex.

The new one delighted the workforce with its 150m drilling capability.

The officials, however, derived little satisfaction from their first effort: their ambition was to match the world standard. Why can't we do what others can do? Let us do our best, they thought. This was their attitude towards the work, and they buckled down to the task of manufacturing a chisel head which was three times greater than the previous one in efficiency. It proved greatly effective in increasing iron ore output.

The complex also concentrated its efforts on repairing the large trucks used for transporting ore. On the basis of a thorough understanding of the conditions of the trucks, it distributed those that were out-of-order to related units, including the truck repair workshop, the repair station and the maintenance workshop, and told them that they must not fail to put the trucks back in good order, raise the skill of the drivers, and make regular examination and repair of their trucks.

Detailed measures were taken to provide a mobile repair service to trucks in service.

As a result, hundreds of large trucks have resumed regular operation to carry the extracted iron ore to the crushing field.

Efforts were made to raise the operating rate of the grinders as well. The introduction of magnet for grinders, which was newly developed by the technicians in a short period, propelled the operation of grinders.

Thanks to the devoted activities of the officials, workers and technicians, iron-ore production has been put back on a normal track.

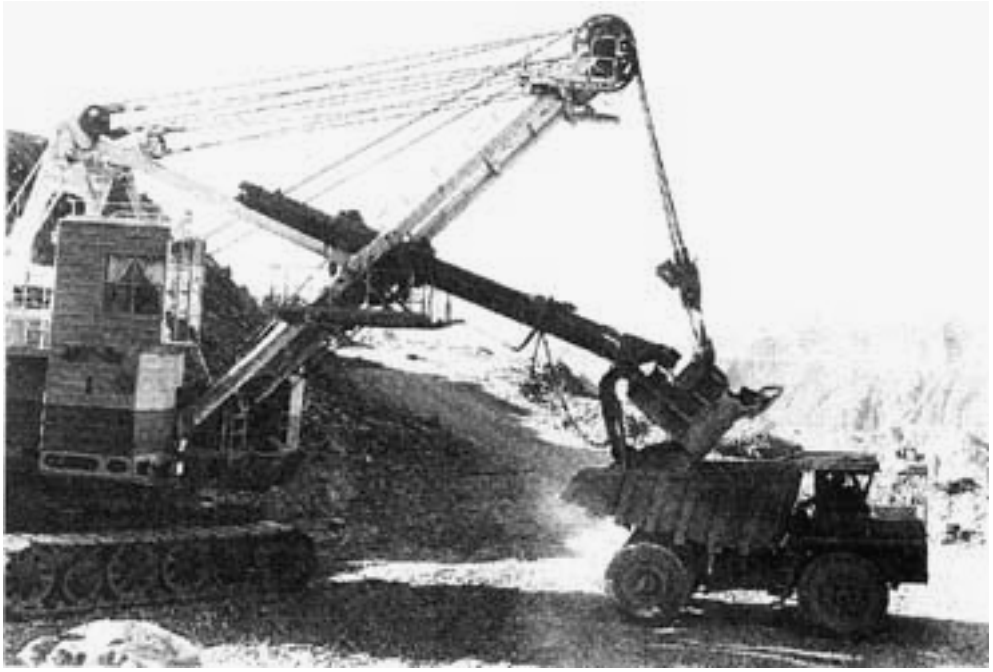
Leader Kim Jong Il visited the complex in November last year. He spoke highly of the success the workers had achieved and gave new tasks to be carried out.

Musan is now fully committed to increasing iron ore production and technical upgrading, in hearty response to the joint editorial of the major newspapers' January 1 issues which appealed to make a new surge in the building of a powerful nation.

Yun Yong Gum

An opencast mining site.

An effective system has been laid out for the transportation of ore.



The National Mineral Resources Survey Group

The National Mineral Resources Survey Group, established in January Juche 44 (1955), is commissioned to systematically investigate the country's geological structure and mineral resources, support the reasonable development and usage of the minerals found and offer proper prospecting methods suitable to given areas.

The organization is subdivided into nearly 20 research teams, including those of ferrous metals, nonferrous metals, fossils, geological structure and mining engineering, as well as a number of affiliates. The staff come from Kim Il Sung University, Kim Chaek University of Technology, Sariwon University of Geology, Phyongsong University of Coal Mining, and other institutes of higher education. Among them are seven Doctors and dozens of Masters of Science; one of them has discovered a number of fossils of primitive forms of life and thus given great service to the correct analysis of Korea's geological eras; another has made a considerable contribution to the systematic research of the geological structure.

It was only nine years after its formation that the group completed a geological map of the country with a scale of 1: 200,000. Further projects were then successfully undertaken: the production of detailed regional maps, all of them on a scale of 1: 50,000. Their devoted efforts resulted in a comprehensive understanding of the nation's geological conditions and distributions of the mineral resources.

In the course of their work they have discovered many deposits of materials like those for cement production, phosphorus, boron, titanium, zirconium, rhenium and other rare minerals badly needed by the national economy, the metal and chemical industries in particular.

Their work has not always been plain sailing, however. Innumerable obstacles have cropped up in recent years, the result of years of tough economic conditions. Nevertheless, they did not falter, making their way across mountains throughout the country to continue research projects. Many newly found resources are the fruition of their painstaking endeavours.

Korea is now focusing on developing its science and technology, which it considers as one of the mainstays for the building of a powerful nation. This policy was reiterated in the joint editorial of the January 1 issues of the DPRK's three major newspapers. The minerals survey group is therefore shouldering more important tasks—the search for rare minerals, which have not yet been found in the country, and more deposits of non-ferrous metals, as well as intensifying their studies into how to make the best use of identified mineral resources. ❑

Researchers analyze ore.

Five-Point Policy of Great National Unity—A Programme for Reunification

Four years ago, on April 18, Juche 87 (1998), a national seminar was held in Pyongyang on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Joint Conference of Representatives of Political Parties and Social Organizations from North and South.

Leader Kim Jong Il sent a historic letter titled, "Let Us Reunify the Country Independently and Peacefully Through the Great Unity of the Entire Nation", to the seminar.

The letter expressed his resolve and will to reunify Korea in our generation by taking over and carrying forward the idea of great national unity advanced by President Kim Il Sung and the exploits he performed in embodying this idea.

Leader Kim Jong Il's firm determination is clearly manifested in the Five-Point Policy of Great National Unity he established.

The policy is a great political programme for national reunion which perfectly clarifies the basis and ideal of unity and the ways and means of realizing it. It involves adhering to the principle of national independence; uniting under the banner of love for our country and nation and the banner of national reunification; improving the relations between the north and the south of Korea; fighting against domination and intervention by foreign forces and against the anti-reunification forces; and promoting mutual contact and dialogue and strengthening the solidarity and unity of the whole nation. The policy is a historic document which has opened up a new, higher stage in the cause of achieving national unity and a new era of national reunification.

For the loftiness of its ideal, the profoundness of its content and feasibility, the policy is gaining a warmer response from all the Korean people as the days go by.

Along with the Ten-Point Programme for the Great Unity of the Whole Nation, the Five-Point Policy, which has developed and enriched the idea of President Kim Il Sung on great national unity in line with the demands of a new era, is the militant banner which arouses all Koreans to an active struggle for national unity.

National independence is essential to bringing about a new phase in the efforts to achieve national reunification through great national unity.

It is only when we maintain the principle of national independence that we can achieve great national unity and accomplish national reunification in accord with the national interest.

No one can realize the reunification of our nation on our behalf. Therefore, relying on foreign forces is a foolish policy which is tantamount to putting our necks into a noose of subjugation of our own accord.

If a politician truly wants to follow the patriotic road for the sake of his country and nation, he should abandon reliance on outside forces and take the position that the reunification issue, the internal affair of our nation, should be solved by the concerted efforts of our own people.

Love for one's country and nation is the ideological basis for great national unity, and national reunification is the common cause of our nation.

Although there are differences between the north and the south, the ideal of love for the country and nation and the desire for national reunification are common to all the Korean people.

That is why the Democratic People's Republic of Korea consistently maintains the principle of national independence and has thoroughly opposed domination by and reliance upon foreign forces. The DPRK is united with anyone who truly loves the country and nation, giving priority to the national interest, and is willing to follow the road of national reunification.

Great national unity can never be achieved of its own accord: it is accompanied by a fierce struggle with those who seek to hinder it.

Our nation has never tolerated in the least the plots of external aggressors aimed at domination, intervention, invasion and war, checking and frustrating them at every step.

The Korean people are now conducting a vigorous reunification campaign on the principle of national independence and by their concerted efforts, in accordance with the spirit of the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration.

However, the national reunification movement is now confronted with a grave challenge. The United States, which divided the Korean nation into two, is now aggravating the situation on the Korean peninsula by hampering the independent and peaceful reunification of our nation and intensifying its anti-DPRK, anti-reunification maneuvers once again.

The prevailing situation makes it necessary for the Korean nation to reinforce its internal pro-reunification patriotic forces in every way.

The united strength of the whole nation makes it possible to resist the anti-national, anti-reunification offensive of the aggressive foreign forces and achieve victory over them.

Now is the time when all fellow compatriots must unite to achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea in accordance with the Five-Point Policy of Great National Unity.

Kim Jong Il, who is leading the whole nation along the road to reunification, is the central figure in the quest for the great unity of our nation.

His fellow Koreans will accomplish the independent reunification cause, closely rallied around him.

Kim Myong Hui

From Kim Il Sung's Reminiscences "*With the Century*"

Fighters from Northern Manchuria

(Continued from the previous issue)

Kang Kon was also among my comrades-in-arms from northern Manchuria whom I met in the Far East region.

Prior to the formation of the IAF, I met Kang Kon during my stay in Camp North. He was so delighted to see me that all the military and political cadres of the 2nd and 3rd Route Armies present there were surprised. Among the military and political cadres in northern Manchuria only Zhou Baozhong and some other commanding officers from the 5th Corps knew the relationship between Kang Kon and me.

Kang Kon and I were old acquaintances. When I was in Manchuria I met him once during our first expedition to northern Manchuria and another time during the second expedition to that place.

He had been active as the political commissar of the 9th Regiment, 3rd Division, 5th Corps since 1938. Judging from the fact that he had become a regimental political worker soon after his enlistment, I could guess how great was the trust he enjoyed.

After we adopted our policy of small-unit activities at the Xiaohaerbaling conference, the 5th Corps also reorganized its structure. Kang Kon was then appointed political commissar of the Guard Company under the direct control of the General Headquarters of the 2nd Route Army. The head of the Guard Company was Pak Rak Kwon.

Whenever I met the messengers frequenting northern Manchuria, I inquired after Kang Kon, and each time I was told he was fighting well. He was well-known in the 5th Corps as a promising commander.

He made a name for himself in only two or three years after his enlistment. This was possible not only because he fought well, but also because he loved the people dearly.

It is said that people were very attached to him, regarding him as a straightforward and honest man. Whenever he entered a village in command of his unit, the villagers warmly welcomed him, saying that Political Commissar Kang had come. Moreover, they vied with each other in imploring him to admit their children to his unit. The popularity of his unit was so great because it was said that Kang Kon's men had a strong sense of organization and discipline.

Kang Kon displayed his talent and ability as a military commander to the full. His military talent was displayed more conspicuously when we employed small-unit activities. Kang Kon was particularly good at ambushing and derailing trains. Once he derailed a train carrying only Japanese officers. During the period of small-unit activities he dealt heavy blows to the enemy by derailing trains and demolishing railway bridges, roads and arsenals.

On the day of my reunion with Kang Kon we unburdened our hearts on the bank of the Amur for many hours.

He lived with us from the time when the IAF were organized. The house in which Kang Kon, I and some others lived was called a *tori* house in those days. The leading commanders of the allied forces lived in this house.

A *tori* house was a cylindrical building common in Siberia in those days. In this type of house, rooms were arranged around the corridor.

In later days I talked with Kang Kon on a number of occasions. Flawless in thinking and practice, he talked in an amusing way. Some people regarded him as a dry and strict commander, but they said that because they did not know him well. Kang Kon was cool-headed and lucid, as well as simple and honest. Yet he was sentimental and kindhearted, too.

He did not gild his assertions or views, but frankly talked about what he ordinarily thought without embellishing anything.

Kang Kon talked a great deal about his native place, Sangju, in North Kyongsang Province. He said he had left Sangju when he was ten years old. Although he had left his native place at such a young age, he still described it vividly and pined for it.

At that time Kang Kon said several times that Sangju was famous for liquor and silk. According to him, it was also a big producer of persimmons.

Whenever he talked about the liquor, persimmons and silk of Sangju as well as about the Raktong River and Mt. Sokri, his eyes became moist.

Although outwardly dry and cool-headed, he could not control his emotion, like a poet, and became more talkative than usual once he started talking about his native place. He recollected with sorrow his elder sister, whom he had left with another family as the future wife for their son.

Those who love their native places as ardently as Kang Kon did his, will be enthusiastic in making revolution. One who loves his birthplace warmly will love his country ardently, and such a man will be enthusiastic about making revolution.

The acquaintance between Kang Kon and me developed into warm comradely love in the days of the IAF.

What I admired in Kang Kon in particular was his extraordinary military eye and a high sense of responsibility. He possessed exhaustive military knowledge. Whenever we debated a military operation, he expressed his opinion enthusiastically. His assertions were unique and had profound meaning.

Kang Kon was good at Chinese and Russian. He started learning Russian after he came to Camp North. Before long, he was able to converse with Soviet officers and read the Military Regulations of the Soviet Union published in Russian. Both the Soviet and Chinese peoples admired his clear head. He invented and used his own abbreviations for Chinese characters.

Kim Chaek rejoiced over Kang Kon's development more than anyone else. At one time they were teacher and student. When he was active in Ningan, Kim Chaek taught at a private school for some time, and Kang Kon studied there.

"Sin Thae was considered a genius in his private school days. He could already recite *The Three Warring Kingdoms* in those days," said Kim Chaek. Sin Thae was Kang Kon's real name.

Although Kim Chaek and Kang Kon were former teacher and student, they were like twins so far as their qualities were concerned. In his lifetime Kim Chaek was famous for being straightforward and honest. Kang Kon also possessed these qualities in equal measure. So far as the principles and abilities of the two men were concerned, they were similar.

When Kang Kon was Chief of General Staff after liberation, many of his subordinates were older than him and quite a few of them had longer revolutionary careers than he had. However, all of them were reserved towards him because they knew well that he was a man of strong revolutionary principles.

Kang Kon did not make the least concession to anyone as far as principles were concerned. He did not forgive those who abandoned their principles, even though they might be his close relatives.

Comrade Kim Jong Il stresses to officials the need to learn from Kang Kon's loyalty to the Party and the leader as well as from his revolutionary principles. He is right. Kang Kon was a talented official worthy of being followed by our successors, as well as an attractive military commander. He was killed in action at a too young age. If he had lived, he would have done a lot more work for the building of the armed forces.

Kang Kon was devoted to the revolution to the last moment of his life. He did not have any rest throughout his life. After Japan's defeat he could not return to Korea, his homeland, as he was helping the Chinese revolution. He took part in the operations to liberate Northeast China as commander of

Kang Kon.

the Jidong military sub-district.

Kang Kon formed many units with Koreans during the operations to liberate Northeast China. It is said that the number of Koreans who took part in these operations amounted to 250,000. Kang developed stomach trouble owing to overwork. When he worked as chief of Camp No. 2 of the Security Officers Training Centre back home, he had a lot of trouble because of a gastric ulcer. In those days he never ate regular meals, and I made sure that at banquets he was not plied with strong drinks.

Kang Kon accomplished great exploits in the building of the people's armed forces. The military achievements of our People's Army in the first stage of the war, such as the victories in the battles to liberate Seoul and Taejon, are largely associated with Kang Kon.

After the People's Army advanced into the area around the Raktong River, Kang Kon reported the situation on the frontline to me. In the middle of his report he said that in a few days he would be able to

reach Sangju, his native place, and meet his elder sister. However, to our regret, he was killed in action not far from his native place in September 1950.

Kang Kon was a talented official. He was at home both in political and military affairs. He was 32 years old when he fell in action. Even the Soviet people envied us for having a young Chief of General Staff. It was really a tragedy that Kang Kon died at such a young age.

We awarded the title of Hero of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Kang Kon. In order to preserve his achievements for posterity, we named the First Central Military Academy the Kang Kon Military Academy. On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the Republic, we had a bronze statue erected to Kang Kon's memory in the city of Sariwon.

It is really regrettable that we have lost Kang Kon. I frequently think of him even now.

When they were going to the training base in the Far East region, all the anti-Japanese fighters from eastern Manchuria wanted to meet those Koreans who had fought in northern Manchuria. It is said that those from northern Manchuria also felt the same.

When I went to Camp North for the first time, all the Korean soldiers from northern Manchuria came out of their barracks and welcomed me. The overwhelming majority of them were strangers to me. When I was about to leave Camp North, they were reluctant to let me go. It seems like only yesterday.

Korean fighters from northern Manchuria treated those from eastern Manchuria as if they had come from their native country. There was no difference between northern and eastern Manchuria in that they both belonged to Manchurian territory. Nevertheless, eastern Manchuria is considerably nearer to Korea than northern Manchuria. Eastern Manchuria was developed by Koreans, and Koreans pioneered the revolution there. So it was not unreasonable that all of them regarded eastern Manchuria as part of their homeland.

Anti-Japanese fighters from eastern Manchuria had advanced into the homeland in company with me on several occasions. Therefore, it was natural for people from northern Manchuria to treat us as people from their homeland.

When I went to Camp North for the first time, Kim Ryong Hwa was noticeable for his impressive moustache.

Next to him was Choe Yong Jin, a big joker. He also grew his moustache. He stepped forward and introduced his fellows one after another. He did not stick to formality and was so light-hearted that I did not feel at all that he was a stranger to me.

When introducing people, he explained the characteristics of each of them briefly. For instance, he described Kang Sang Ho as having a marvellous memory, Kim Ryong Hwa and Kim Tae Hong as crack shots, Jang Sang Ryong, Kim Ji Myong and Jon Pong So as being nimble and diligent, Kim Jung Dong as having a quick eye and Ryu Ung Sam as an expert farmer. I found out later that his descriptions were accurate.

Kang Sang Ho had a clear head, Kim Ryong Hwa and Kim Tae Hong were crack shots, and Jang Sang Ryong, Kim Ji Myong, Jon Pong So, Pak U Sop and Kim Yang Chun were diligent and honest people who did any tasks assigned to them immediately, without putting them off. When he was at the training base in the Far East region, Jang Sang Ryong ran errands frequently between Kim Chaek and me.

Ryu Ung Sam was well-informed about farming. When he was in northern Manchuria, he was in charge of farming in the guerrilla zone. At Camp North, too, he took part in all the affairs of the sideline farm. At one time he worked as chief of the sideline farming department in the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces.

In those days I also met Choe Min Chol and Ri Jong San. The latter was the youngest of the men in northern Manchuria. When Choe Yong Jin reminded us of how Ri Jong San had fallen down from his bed at the sound of a shot announcing an emergency call, all of us held our sides, laughing.

Women soldiers who came from northern Manchuria had an open-hearted character in general. There are many vast plains in northern Manchuria. It seems that if people live in a wide area, their character also becomes open-hearted. They were all adept at riding.

Among the women soldiers from northern Manchuria, Pak Kyong Suk and Pak Kyong Ok were the best wireless operators and Wang Ok Hwan was the best horse rider. Ri Suk Jong was also said to be good at riding. Ho Chang Suk, Jon Sun Hui and Jang Hi Suk were outstanding members of the sewing unit. Ri Kye Hyang was a crack shot.

Whenever he introduced his colleagues, Choe Yong Jin put in a vainglorious phrase and in doing so, each time his face would bear a funny expression, provoking a smile. In my days in West Jiandao I had occasionally heard that Choe Yong Jin was a funny man. However, when I met him personally, I found him to be wittier than I had expected.

(To be continued)

From Chapter 23 "In Alliance With the International Anti-Imperialist Forces," Part 1 "The Anti-Japanese Revolution"

The Woman Who Lives on in the Minds of the People

April 21 this year marks the 110th anniversary of the birth of Kang Pan Sok, an indomitable revolutionary fighter.

She actively helped her husband Kim Hyong Jik, an outstanding leader of the anti-Japanese national liberation movement in Korea, and bore and brought up President Kim Il Sung. Her noble image remains engraved deep in the minds of all people decade after decade and century after century.

Recalling his mother. President Kim Il Sung said:

"The love she showed me was not simply motherly love. It was true revolutionary affection with which she regarded me as the son of the nation rather than her own son and she awakened me to the need to give priority to loyalty to the country over filial piety towards my parents."

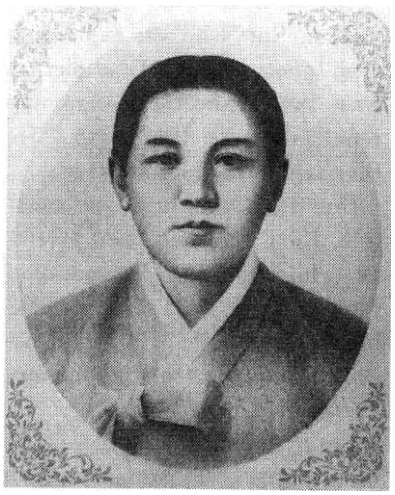
While managing household affairs which were a great burden to her, she actively assisted in the revolutionary activities of her husband and her son throughout her life.

As the eldest daughter-in-law of a family of twelve, she was constantly on her feet. At a time when feudalism prevailed, the duties of the eldest daughter-in-law of such a large family were not simple. But busy as she was, she did all she could to help her husband in his revolutionary activities and infused a strong sense of patriotism into the mind of her son.

Helping her son on a swing time and again, she implanted the noble intention and will of her husband in his mind.

Hearing that his father had been arrested again by the Japanese police in Juche 14 (1925), the young President, who was attending the Changdok School in Pyongyang at the time, arrived at Badaogou, China, after walking a distance of 1,000 ri (250 miles). Nevertheless, his mother made him leave at once, refusing to allow him to stay with her even for one night, despite the fact she had not seen him for two years.

At that time her heart ached, filled



with bitterness. The shock the young President got that day was great.

Recalling the incident, the President wrote in his reminiscences: "All my life as a revolutionary I have met and bid farewell to many people, but that was a particularly memorable experience.

"As I set out on a journey again, as soon as I had met my mother after a fortnight's long travel from Mangyongdae, I thought a lot about her."

Kang Pan Sok reared her son into a great revolutionary with such a stout heart. This was her immortal exploit.

Many years have passed. But the story about the large *mal* of foxtail millet (a large *mal* of grain is about 15 kg) which was widely recounted at the beginning of the 1930s touches the hearts of our people even today.

When the President bought a large *mal* of foxtail millet and visited Tuqidian in Xiaoshahe, his mother's illness had become very serious.

But that night she talked with her son until after midnight without betraying her emotions. When mention was made of the family's livelihood or the condition of her health, she would hastily change the subject of conversation to other topics.

He felt his heart breaking when he noticed how his mother was trying to conceal the state of her health from him.

At that time the President thought: "What if I continue with the underground struggle for a few years more? Is it not right for me to do so and call at my home once every few months to discuss household affairs and console my mother? Is that not my filial duty to my mother, a woman who has lived in hardship all her life and suffered unusually bitter experiences?"

Reading his mind, his mother said:

"You seem to have changed a little from before. I never thought you would carry a sack of cereal here on your back to support your mother. I suppose you are anxious about me. I am grateful to you for your great filial devotion, but I am not of the type to be comforted by that. In Fusong I would cross rugged hills, holding your hand, in order to expand the Women's Association. Do you think I did so to get this sort of consolation today? You have a greater cause to attend to. Don't you think you should carry out your father's wishes? You know there are many Koreans who are suffering a worse situation than me. Don't worry about me, just hurry along on your own way."

In his recollections of that time, the President said:

"I would often think: If at that time my mother had betrayed her anxiety about household affairs or had uttered a single word which could unbend my resolute mind, what impact would it have made on the heart of her son who was ready to spread his wings and fly up into the sky?"

Even today, the President's words produce an irresistible yearning for Kang Pan Sok in the hearts of the Korean people.

Her image, still shining in their hearts, will shine more brightly than ever in the rich and powerful Korea of the 21st century.

Sin Mun Gyong

Devotion Carved on Prison Wall

FORMER unconverted long-term prisoner Ri Kong Sun was the weakest prisoner I have ever met.

The moment I met him I wondered how he could have survived in prison for 33 years in such poor health. As if he had read my mind, he said, "In the embrace of our Republic I have become fairly healthy. I have also gained weight. In the south Korean prison none of my comrades believed that I could survive. But I could not die before national reunification." He then took out two thick picture albums and placed them before me. One contained pictures taken in south Korea, the other pictures from the north.

I turned over leaf after leaf, until one particular picture arrested my eye. A Korean map could clearly be seen, although efforts had been made to efface it. Kong Sun, who was explaining each photo, said, "This picture was taken shortly before my repatriation to the north." He then told me a story about it.

Due to a turncoat's information, Kong Sun had been arrested while fighting for national reunification and sentenced to life imprisonment. He began his prison life at the Sodaemun Prison in Seoul.

Various thoughts gnawed at him—hatred for the turncoat, a feeling of futility over his efforts for national reunification, and a disappointment at his failure to continue his struggle.

One day, while passing the time in quiet contemplation, a thought flashed across his mind: "Sitting idle is the life of a recluse, an escape from reality. I must do something." He decided to draw a map of Korea on the cell wall to give other comrades the courage to fight more vigorously for national reunification.

Prison guards constantly watched the prisoners, often torturing them, and it was no easy job to draw a map on the wall. To make matters worse, he had no tools with which to draw.

Kong Sun did not give up, however. Scratching the wall inch by inch with his fingernails, blood would flow from his fingers, and his fingernails become worn away. But he did not stop. The map was completed in just 52 days. Even the major mountain ranges and railways linking both halves of Korea were included in the map. He named it the "reunification map".

He renewed his resolve before the map every morning, and every evening he reviewed his daily life.

He was moved to Taejon and Kwangju prisons and returned to

The "reunification map" drawn by Ri Kong Sun on a prison wall during his imprisonment.

the Sodaemun Prison nearly 20 years later. By chance he was thrown into cell No.8 on the second floor, the very cell in which he had started his prison life. The first thing he did was to look for the map on the wall. Only its outline remained, for the guards had done everything they could to erase the map. He carved it deeper so it could not be effaced.

After subsequent transfers to Chongju and Kwangju prisons he was released, having spent 33 years behind bars. He paid his first visit as a free man to the Sodaemun Prison. He went to his old cell, and standing before the map, renewed his pledge to continue his struggle until the day of national reunification.

In mid-September last year, the former long-term prisoners and their families visited Mt. Paektu. Kong Sun climbed the mountain hand in hand with his wife and felt as though he could see the whole land to its end. He was as cheerful as a child, but the reunification map on the cell wall floated vividly before his eyes.

"The reunification map of this country in my mind linked by a terrestrial stratum from Mt. Paektu was completed nearly 40 years ago. But half of the country is still under the jackboots of the US imperialism. At this thought my heart burned with hatred for the sworn enemy," Kong Sun recalled.

Hearing his story, I realized more clearly than ever that national reunification is the burning desire of the Korean people, the realization of which does not brook any further delay. I am convinced that the day of reunification is not far-off, as all Koreans, including the former unconverted long-term prisoners, are working hard to achieve it. I left Kong Sun's home picturing the day of reunification, a day when all our compatriots will hug each other with joy.

Ryu Kyong Hui

Ri *(center)* with his family.

Great Korean Encyclopedia Compiled

Compilation of the 30-volume Great Korean Encyclopedia has been completed by the Science and Encyclopedia Press.

The encyclopedia covers history, culture, nature, geography, customs, legends, biographies of famous individuals and the latest scientific and technological materials of Korea and other countries.

It contains information on politics, economics, culture, the military and many other fields, and indexes the 100,000 entries in Korean alphabetical order.

Its contents are so enormous that it would take nearly 30 years to read all the entries at a rate often per day. The encyclopedia is considered a treasure of Korea and the world.

Victorious Spirit of the Pyongyang Declaration

At present the global socialist movement is entering a new stage of development, overcoming the crises caused by the imperialist reactionaries and socialist renegades.

Against this background, the revolutionary parties and peoples of the world are commemorating the tenth anniversary of the publication of the Pyongyang Declaration. They will use the occasion to confirm their determination to further strengthen international unity and solidarity and speed up their advance towards the accomplishment of the socialist cause.

This shows that people invariably aspire for socialism because of its truth and that the declaration provides the driving force of the socialist movement.

The declaration is an important guarantee enabling the revolutionary parties and peoples to defend and hold fast to the socialist cause against all the attempts by the international counter-revolutionary force to destroy it.

The publication of the declaration, titled "Let Us Defend and Advance the Cause of Socialism", on April 20 Juche 81 (1992) was a historic event which dealt a decisive blow to the reactionaries and their anti-socialist offensive, and was of epochal significance in the resumption and advance of the socialist movement.

The declaration reflected the revolutionary parties and peoples' iron will to defend and push forward the socialist cause at a time when socialism was experiencing unexpected crisis and confusion.

The world was faced with a quite complicated and serious situation: socialism had given way to capitalism in many countries, the result of both the anti-socialist strategy of the imperialists and the traitorous conduct of renegade revolutionaries. This abnormal situation inflicted a severe crisis on the socialist movement.

The imperialists and their spokesmen, cheering the developments, put forward various abuses and false rumours. Announcing the collapse of socialism in several countries as the "defeat and end" of socialism, they distorted the truth, describing the events as the "inevitable result" of both the "unscientific nature" of the socialist ideal and the "defects" of the socialist system, and launched open attempts to completely remove socialism from the face of the earth.

The circumstances caused some people a great deal of uneasiness, causing them to sway ideologically due to a lack of confidence or delusions about capitalism, discard their faith in socialism and revolutionary principles and avoid or give up their struggle. Some parties adopted an opportunistic attitude or began a process of degeneration.

The turmoil seriously impaired the development of revolution and mankind's cause of independence.

All these events urgently required that the truth and justness of socialism and the sureness of its final victory should be confirmed, so as to give confidence and strength to the world's revolutionary peoples and frustrate the fanatical anti-socialist behaviour of the reactionaries who were clamouring about the "failure" and "end" of socialism. They also necessitated a fresh program of struggle and a new banner of revolution, in order to rebuild and develop the global socialist movement.

The Pyongyang Declaration, reflecting these historical requirements, was thus adopted, ushering in a new era in which the socialist movement advances on the basis of independence, as required by its intrinsic nature.

The declaration proved that socialist society is a true people's society where the popular masses become the masters of everything and everything serves the masses. It also clearly revealed the anti-popular and corrupt nature of the capitalist society, where a handful of exploiters control everything and regard the popular masses as the objects of history and means of production.

The truth and vitality of the declaration are more fully displayed with each passing day.

For the ten years since the publication of the declaration, the global revolutionary parties and peoples have adhered to it as their program of struggle and a weapon in their active endeavours to resume the socialist movement and advance its cause.

The declaration was signed by 70 parties at the time of its adoption. It has now been signed by more than 250 parties, displaying its magnetic force and influence in stimulating the progressive peoples to the struggle for socialism and independence.

This shows that the declaration has won the absolute support and sympathy of the revolutionary parties and peoples, providing the guidelines for the resumption and development of the global socialist movement.

Those many countries around the world which have worked to build a new society aspire for socialism and independent development. They are waging a struggle against domination and subordination by the imperialists and their neo-colonial exploitation and plunder.

It is clear that the socialist movement is accelerating its advance despite the imperialists and reactionaries' unprecedentedly violent schemes to obliterate it.

Choe Song Guk

Symbol of Our Principles and Faith

For 70 years since announcing its birth and firing the first shot in the anti-Japanese war the Korean People's Army has advanced along the road of glory, winning victory after victory.

I cannot but be moved with fresh, deep emotion as I look back upon protracted and arduous struggles of the past.

It was through the flames of the struggle that I felt in my bones the revolutionary truth that if we are to defeat an armed enemy we must arm ourselves, the undeniable truth that the gun is as precious a weapon in revolution as one's life.

As the son of an ordinary peasant, I joined the youth company of the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army in my teens. I still get excited thinking of the joy I felt as I received a new uniform and a rifle. I, a very young man of no experience, came to hold the weapon of revolution, the life of a revolutionary, thanks to President Kim Il Sung.

It was only later on that I fully realized the value of the rifle in my hand. At that time my only desire was to shoot the Japanese imperialists and landlords so as to fully satisfy my grudge.

The ceaseless, fierce battles we fought gradually taught me the true worth of my weapon.

It is not only a weapon with which to shoot the enemy; it represents the life of a revolutionary. It symbolizes the principles and faith of revolutionaries and is the manifestation of an ardent love of the future.

The truth was more deeply engraved in my mind during the war against the US aggressors in the 1950s, and through the practice of revolution I was able to develop into an army political officer.

Credit for my realization of the truth to such a great extent must go to the President, who allowed me to join the youth company and took parental care of me.

The gun of revolution held high by the President 70 years ago is now more firmly maintained than ever thanks to leader Kim Jong Il's idea of giving priority to the army.

Kim Jong Il declared, "We can live without the sweets, but not without bullets."

His iron-willed declaration resulted from a correct analysis of the DPRK's proud history, in which great importance has been attached to the gun through generations, and is a strong appeal for all revolutionaries to hold the gun more firmly.

Our present armed forces are not the young ranks who armed themselves with the weapons they seized from the enemy 70

years ago. The revolutionary armed force has now become a peerless one equipped with modern means of attack and defence, capable of mercilessly striking the enemy anywhere on earth.

No threat or appeasement of the imperialists will ever work on us, who treasure the gun as much as our life.

As long as we have the gun, which sustained us through the anti-Japanese war, became stronger during the war against the US invaders, and is now firmly maintained by Kim Jong Il, our motherland is invincible.

We will allow no enemy to set foot on our land. Should they make the mistake of invading our country, they will not avoid the fate of forlorn wandering spirits.

Kim Chol Man,
an anti-Japanese fighter

KPA Celebrates 70th Anniversary of Its Founding

The Korean people are now commemorating the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Korean People's Army, the revolutionary armed force of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The founding of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army by President Kim Il Sung on April 25 Juche 21 (1932) was a historic event which proclaimed the birth of a new, Juche-type revolutionary armed force for the first time in the history of army building of the working class.

Over the last 70 years, from the time of its founding to the present day, the Korean revolutionary armed force has creditably discharged its noble mission for the country and people and for our era and revolution, all the while guaranteeing by force of arms the revolutionary cause pioneered by President Kim Il Sung.

The KPRA, which began the anti-Japanese war in accordance with the Juche-orientated revolutionary line put forward by the President, waged a bloody struggle over a long period of time and ultimately expelled the one-million strong Japanese imperialist army, despite a situation in which there was neither state assistance nor a rear area to rely on, and thus accomplished the historic cause of national liberation. In the course of this struggle, the glorious traditions of the revolutionary armed force were established.

The Korean People's Army, the direct successor to the KPRA, defeated the US imperialist aggressors, who boasted of being "the strongest" in the world, in the fierce, three-year-long Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950-July 1953), ensuring the independence of the country and the dignity of the Korean nation.

In the difficult post-war days, too, the People's Army firmly defended the Party, the leader and the gains of the revolution and reliably guaranteed the victorious advance of the socialist revolution and socialist construction by force of arms, frustrating the enemy's ceaseless manoeuvres to trigger off another war and the class enemy's challenge.

Whenever our country faced harsh trials, the officers and men of the People's Army not only defended the headquarters of the revolution at the risk of their lives and safeguarded the Korean-style socialist system, but also performed remarkable feats in every difficult sector of socialist economic construction.

The Korean People's Army has creditably discharged its noble mission, displaying its might as an invincible army during the long course of a revolution full of vicissitudes. It could do so because it has been led by a brilliant commander.

President Kim Il Sung, using his gift of far-sightedness, routed the Japanese imperialists and liberated the country by founding the army first and waging an organized armed struggle. He then founded the Party and the State.

He led the Juche cause to victory by relying on the revolutionary armed force and giving leadership to them.

This cause of army building is now being taken to a new, higher plane by Supreme Commander Kim Jong Il.

Through his unremitting efforts to embody the ideas and theories of President Kim Il Sung, he is now leading the Korean revolution as a whole to a new victory.

It is his unshakeable belief that the People's Army must play the role of pillar and main force in realizing the cause of Korean-style socialism, a conviction he has consistently demonstrated in his revolutionary activities.

In the whole process of leading the Korean revolution he has always paid primary attention to military affairs and increasing the nation's military strength, putting forward the revolutionary philosophy that the army is the Party, the State and the people.

He has newly defined army-centred politics as the basis of his policies, in keeping with the requirements of revolutionary development, and has accomplished the strengthening of the country's military and national power as a whole through his army-centred revolutionary leadership.

As part of the policy of modeling the whole army upon the Juche idea set out by Kim Jong Il, the political work has been further intensified within the army. As a result, the People's Army is now pervaded with a spirit of warm love for the Party, leader, country and people, and it has grown into a powerful army in which the spirit of unity between officers and men and unity between the army and the people prevails.

Under Kim Jong Il's leadership, the policy of turning the army into an army of cadres has been implemented and its modernization accomplished.

This has enabled the People's Army to become an army which is equipped with means of attack and defence powerful enough to annihilate any aggressors at a stroke and armed with a Juche military strategy.

Through his frequent on-the-spot guidance of People's Army units he infused ever-victorious resourcefulness and bravery into its officers and men, showing love for and putting confidence in them. It is through this process that the KPA has grown into an invincible army which has formed tight bonds with the supreme commander.

It is the will of the KPA to mercilessly eliminate all aggressors if they invade even a millimetre of the sacred sky, land or sea of their country.

Today, the revolutionary spirit of soldiers he implanted in every heart has become the source of the ideological and mental strength which enables the people to achieve miracles and brings about continuous innovation.

The Korean revolutionary armed force which took its first steps in the forests of Mt. Paektu and went on to achieve victory after victory will, as ever, creditably discharge its mission and duty.

Kim Il Sin

70

KPA soldiers march in fine array flying the flag bearing the image of President Kim Il Sung.

Drills are performed under combat conditions.

Making a pledge of allegiance.

Soldiers perfect their shooting skills.

A company of soldiers takes a break.

Ready to cope with any emergency.

KPA pilots are determined to prevent any intrusion into the nation's air space.

Motherly care about soldiers.

KPA soldiers make a breakthrough in socialist construction.

KPA officers and men swear to defend Supreme Commander Kim Jong Il with their lives.

Mangyongdae, the Place Dear to People's Hearts

President Kim Il Sung's birthplace at Mangyongdae.

President Kim Il Sung was acclaimed and venerated by the Korean people as the first great leader in the nation's history.

On the significant and balmy spring day of April 15, Mangyongdae presents a beautiful and enchanting spectacle unparalleled in the world, with all sorts of flowers coming into full bloom.

President Kim Il Sung's native home at Mangyongdae, now in the thick of spring, is ceaselessly visited by foreigners from various countries.

This native home, with its low eaves, remains the ordinary, simple home it always was, but in the people's hearts it is a special place, for it is where the President was born.

The small brushwood gate, straw-thatched roof, hand-stained farm implements, distorted pot and old clothes-box are enough to show the poor life the family once led.

All the household furnishings are frugal and plain.

Among them, an ink stone with ink stick and writing brushes carefully preserved inside the house convey the noble thoughts and ardent spirit of the members of this family.

From his childhood the President adopted his father's cause and nurtured a great plan for revolution, writing the words, "the independence of Korea".

Many other relics at Mangyongdae tell visitors of the President's childhood activities, such as the wrestling ground, a sliding rock, and the study site where he cultivated his intellect and courage.

Looking at the relics reflecting the noble spirit of this revolutionary family and those associated with legendary episodes that were part of the unusual development of the great man, all visitors to Mangyongdae are filled with a firm resolve to follow his leadership. ❑

The Museum of Kim Il Sung's Revolutionary Activities.

The pavilion on top of Mangyong Hill.

The "warship" rock that Kim Il Sung used while playing at soldiers during his childhood.

The study site which he frequented during his childhood.

The wrestling ground where President Kim Il Sung used to have Korean wrestling in his childhood.

Victory true to the era of army-centred politics

These Korean women brought glory to their nation by winning the 13th Asian Women's Football Championships.

EN'S CHAM

Women With a Dream

On a small field in the suburbs of the capital, a group of young women dream of winning the World Cup.

The women are members of the DPRK women's football team which won the 13th Asian Women's Football Championships held in Taipei, China, in December last year.

It was in March that year that the team was formed, comprising players from various sports clubs around the country. Jo Song Ok, Ri Kum Suk and Jin Pyol Hui were playing a key role in the team. The rest, only 23 years old on average, had never participated in international competition before the championships.

Jo Song Ok, the captain of the team, won the top-scorer prize at the 12th round of the championships. She has scored a total of 28 goals in international matches.

The team's success has always been attributed to the captain, who is flexible, quick and wide on the field and unusually skillful in controlling the ball. She organizes and directs her team with expertise, leading them to victory on many occasions.

As the elder of the team, she educates and leads the others as elder sisters should.

Ri Kum Suk, known for her strong heading ability, plays at center-half. Of the 15 goals she notched at the 2001 championships, eight of them came from headers.

It was at the age of 13 that Ri, the only daughter of an ordinary family, began to play football at a youth and children's sports school.

Jin Pyol Hui, who wears the number ten's jersey, is a center forward.

Football fans call her "sanmae (mountain hawk)". Whenever the competitive forward seizes an opportunity to dart past defender and get a shot in, it causes a buzz of excitement in the crowd. They are reminded of a mountain hawk, with its wings unfolded, watching from the sky for an opportunity to swoop down on its prey.

Jin distinguished herself with a fine display at the 3rd Women's World Cup in Juche 88 (1999). At the time, the senior coach of the US women's football team said to reporters that Jin, with her unusual eye for goal, was likely to become a serious threat to the goalkeepers of the world's top women's football teams.

She was the winner of the National Woman Footballer of the Year award in 2000.

The DPRK team was greatly strengthened during preparations for the 13th Asian championships.

This is attributed largely to the efforts of Merited Athlete Ri Song Gun, the team's senior coach, who has a 15-year career in coaching.

He was appointed the senior coach of the team on its formation in March last year, charged with preparing the team for the Asian championships.

Describing his feelings at the time of his appointment, Ri said, "At first I was afraid that I might fail to meet the expectations of the country and people. Then I braced myself up, believing that if I tried hard I would surely succeed."

He concentrated his efforts on training the women to be as strong, persevering and fast as men footballers.

He also introduced fresh tactics and training methods, which proved greatly effective in the recent games, especially in the match against Japan.

On December 16 last year, just prior to the final, NHK reported, "The Japanese team can finally realize its dream of winning its first championships."

The Japanese had reason to be confident, because the Japanese team included two of the world's top players, both of whom play in the professional American league.

From the kick-off the Japanese fought desperately to realize their dream, but the DPRK team were soon on top.

The Korean team defended superbly throughout and constantly changed the direction of their attack, causing havoc in the Japanese defense. Time and again the DPRK forwards darted past the opposing full-backs to latch onto balls played over the heads of the Japanese defenders. Such was the Korean pressure, it was impossible for the Japanese team to apply its own tactics.

Shortly after opening the scoring with a scrambled effort from close range, the Korean team was awarded a free-kick about 20 meters out from the goal.

Ri Un Gyong volunteered to take the kick, although Jin Pyol Hui was the team's designated free-kick taker. Ri was determined to get on the scoresheet, however, confidently running up to the ball.

Jin Pyol Hui and Ri Kum Suk watched her trustfully.

With all her strength she struck the ball towards the opponent's goal.

The ball took a deflection off a Japanese player and curled into the top-corner of the net, creating jubilation among the Korean players and fans. It was the last goal of the game, the DPRK team defeating the Japanese 2:0.

During six matches at the championships the DPRK team scored 53 goals in all, the greatest number of goals a team has scored in the history of the championships.

Tears rolled down the Korean women's cheeks as they received the cup and gold medals that athletes cherish above all.

Their tears reflected their boundless gratitude to the motherland which enabled them to stand on the awards platform.

In high spirits, the women are now engrossed in training with the aim of winning another trophy at the coming competition. ❑

Birth of 300th Set of Triplets

ON December 10 last year, as the year came to a close, the 300th set of triplets to be born at Pyongyang Maternity Hospital since its foundation in July Juche 69 (1980) was delivered of.

The birth of triplets is no ordinary event, but what was more surprising was that the mother of the triplets had previously given birth to triplets in Juche 89 (2000) and now delivered another set.

This strange phenomenon has never previously been recorded.

Many people greatly admired her, as well as being surprised.

Sharing the same feeling, I, as Korea Today reporter, went to the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital to visit her.

* * *

In room No. 16 of the 2nd obstetrics department, on the 6th floor of the hospital, which was warmed by the penetrating sunshine despite the cold winter weather outside, I could meet our heroine.

She greeted this first-time visitor with an awkward smile on her face.

"I'm Sin Yong Ok," she said by way of introduction. After a brief exchange of pleasantries, Yong Ok began her story.

She was born the eldest daughter in an ordinary farmer's family in Posong-ri, Toksong County, South Hamgyong Province, in January Juche 56 (1967), spending her childhood there.

With the exception of her time as an athlete during her senior middle school days, it was an uneventful period in her life.

She had taken first prizes in a number of sports competitions in the province, but upon graduation she became a farmer rather than an athlete, following in the footsteps of her parents.

A strong woman of 165 cm in height and 65 kg in weight, Yong Ok never spared herself in her work.

She married Hwang Chang Un after being introduced by one of her relatives. Hwang was a tractor driver at the Tonghung Cooperative Farm in Kim Hyong Gwon County, Ryanggang Province.

In June two years ago, she delivered triplets unexpectedly.

"It was like a dream for me, because, listening to other mothers of triplets who were well-known throughout the country and the deep concern of the people, I not only admired them, but also thought that being a mother of triplets would be beyond me. But then I myself became a mother of triplets. Though I felt a little embarrassed, I was pleased with the happiness it brought to all the villagers," said Yong Ok.

It was also a happy event for the country.

For the triplets (two daughters and a son) and the mother, medical team from the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital was sent to their out-of-way village, in a secluded, mountainous place, and after two days of delivery, a plane came to transport them to the capital.

The state conferred maximum benefits on them, as it has done for all triplets. In order to ensure the complete recovery of the triplets, every possible measure was taken. After being discharged from the hospital, a silver dagger, gold rings and other presents were given to the parents and the triplets. Thanks to the country's close concern for the well-being of the triplets for four years, they are healthily growing under the care of the nurses and doctors in charge of their health at a nursery in the province.

Their parents named the triplets Hwang Un Jong, Un Dok, and Un Hye, not to let them forget the benefits of the country. (Each of their names means favour.Ed.)

In the middle of last year, Yong Ok suspected she was pregnant again. As soon as her pregnancy with triplets was confirmed, she was taken to Pyongyang Maternity Hospital and received special treatment for four months.

Sin Yong Ok put in care.

Yong Ok once said that she had received too great a favour, not paying even a penny.

"When I heard that I was pregnant with triplets again, there was not the delightful feeling I had at the first delivery, I even felt a little shame. But despite my feelings, the doctors did their best. They encouraged me, reminding me of President Kim Il Sung's saying that the birth of many triplets was an indication of the prosperity of the country."

When the triplets were born, they weighed 2.28 kg on average.

The news of their straightforward birth was broadcast throughout the whole country on TV, and she continuously received telegrams and letters of congratulation. On the weekends and holidays, she had endless visits from people unfamiliar to her.

Congratulations were always followed by the question "How?"

At these moments Yong Ok's face would redden and she would leave it to the head of 2nd obstetrics department, Rim Hyong Pok, to provide the answer on her behalf.

It is believed that heredity accounts for 60 per cent of triplet births, and there were twins both in Yong Ok's family and her husband's.

The babies in incubators.

* * *

Yong Ok said, "I am truly thankful. Never forgetting the special treatment I have received, I'll bring up the children well to be loyal to the country."

Yom Song Hui

Exhibition and Workshop on Scientific and Technical Achievements and Experience

An exhibition and workshop on scientific and technical achievements and experience in the production and use of composite microbe fertilizers and Koryo fertilizers were held in Korea between late November and early December last year.

Composite microbe fertilizers, Koryo fertilizers and agricultural produce cultivated using them, which came from various parts of the country, were displayed at the exhibition. A number of people announced valuable scientific and technical achievements or gave accounts of the experiences gained in their production and use.

The speakers referred to the achievements and experiences acquired in the course of developing and using composite microbe fertilizers and highly-effective Koryo fertilizers, increasing the fertility of soil and establishing the production methods and application methods of microbe fertilizers guaranteeing a high and stable harvest.

The participants were particularly attracted by composite microbe solid fertilizers exerting a good effect on paddy rice growth, composite microbe fertilizer preventing damage from brine in rice farming on reclaimed tidelands, and Koryo fertilizers used to deal with vegetable-farming season blights and harmful insects.

There were also explanations of the methods of producing composite microbe fertilizers with powdered maize stalk and their effects, the results of comparative tests of the qualities of nitrogen, phosphorus, potash and composite microbe fertilizers and many other scientific and technical achievements.

Prizes were awarded to those who had offered the most valuable contributions.

The Motherland to Which He Returned in His Last Years

(Continued from the previous issue)

2. "POPULAR MASSES MOUNT THE PLATFORM"

Afterwards Choe Tok Sin visited many places in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including his native village.

Everything he saw excited his surprise.

What enabled the people in the north to build a paradise on the ruins empty-handed, a paradise the like of which could be found nowhere else in the world?

Asking himself this question, he tried to find an answer, but he could not find a clear explanation.

Turning towards the Tower of the Juche Idea standing imposingly on the picturesque Taedong riverside, he again thought over what he had directly seen, heard and felt till then. A thought flitted across his mind first. It was that the DPRK was free from the social unrest and fear prevailing in Western society.

There were none of the suicides, prostitutes or mafia that could be seen in the "free world", where he had been living, and ecstatic scenes which he had previously pictured only in his imagination as an ideal could be seen everywhere in the DPRK.

He thought that he could back this up with some facts.

The DPRK was the one and only tax-free country in the world.

The word "taxation" had no place in the vocabulary of the people in the DPRK. This fact baffled him.

In south Korea and the United States tax is called a synonym for tears of blood. It is a constant worry for tens of millions of people. People are bothered at all times by taxes on houses, land, business incomes, lighting and hundreds of other things. Innumerable tax notifications are piled upon the heads of tax-payers every month. People have their property taken from them, unable to pay taxes. If they have no property or not enough money to pay, they are put in prison.

Some people take flight in the middle of the night, unable to bear the pressure to pay their taxes, while others commit suicide together with all their family members after going bankrupt. Such social tragedies are an everyday occurrence.

Children cry if a tax collector comes. There is even a "tax-collectors' calendar" published. This was the "free world" he had once supported.

In the DPRK the state was not expropriating taxes from the people, yet it was bearing full responsibility for their food, clothing and housing.

Ordinary working people took it as a matter of course for the state to bear responsibility for their food and clothing, to say nothing of their medical treatment, housing and the education of their children.

These facts caused him to think deeply. It was hard to accept that the state did not collect taxes from the people. Moreover, the fact that the state was not reigning over the people but was instead serving them excited him, as it was something he had never heard before.

He paid special attention to the fact that in the DPRK alone there were no streetwalkers, though they can often be seen elsewhere in the world.

In south Korea there are hundreds of thousands of abandoned women. They are being used by lewd foreign men in the bars and brothels around US military bases, victims of the *kisaeng* (girls for pleasure) trade which the south Korean authorities greatly encourage as "an industry without chimneys" and put forward as a government policy.

He came to see clearly that the DPRK was taking the stand of making no concessions with regard to human rights and national dignity.

That there are no prostitutes is evidence of the fact that the human rights of women are ensured and that the equal rights of all members of society are fully guaranteed, he thought.

The political ideals of the DPRK seemed to him to be diametrically different from those of a society where money is everything and even human dignity can be bought or sold. It was a country in which the social and national disgrace of prostitution did not exist.

Another fact that surprised him was that jewels of great value were glittering not on the necklaces or finger rings of individuals, but on the floor of the central hall of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital.

From olden times jewels have been the object of greed of merchants and plunderers around the world. He thought to himself: where in this world could one find a society in which precious jewels were made a possession of the people themselves, their common wealth?

Everything he saw and heard caused him to reassess his beliefs.

He could not remain indifferent even to those who were fishing in the River Taedong.

They were catching carp as large as a forearm in the river flowing through the center of the city.

In other countries, angling enthusiasts had to make a long journey by train or by car, because the sky, land and sea were seriously polluted by chemical waste from factories, smoke, gases, and so on, owing to the pursuit of profit before all else.

But when building a factory or a smelter in the DPRK, the law decreed that primary attention must be paid to preventing envi-

ronmental pollution which might adversely affect human lives and health. Profits were a secondary consideration. It was inconceivable that environmentally destructive industries that had already been discarded by developed countries would be introduced into the DPRK, as they had been in south Korea.

For whom does the law exist, the law which enables all the people to breathe fresh air and drink clean water?

It is for the sake of the popular masses! The abolition of all the tear-inducing taxes, the non-existence of prostitution and the grief it brings to the daughters of poor families, and the conversion of the nation's wealth into common wealth—all this is for the sake of the popular masses. Politics in the north is politics for the popular masses!

This was the conclusion he came to.

He realized that the "free world" in which he had lived so far could never achieve this state of affairs. This was because he was well aware of the "liberal democracy" advocated by the West.

The deeper he was in thought, the greater became his desire to know the political philosophy, the guiding idea, of the DPRK.

He finally reached the Tower of the Juche Idea.

In an excited state of mind, he looked at the tower representing the great Juche idea, the guiding idea of the DPRK.

Visible on the stone pedestal in front of the tower was a group sculpture of a worker, a farmer and an intellectual holding high a hammer, a sickle and a writing brush respectively.

It was difficult for him to remove his gaze from the sculpture.

Throughout history, only the sculptures of kings or emperors have stood on such stone pedestals, which ordinary workers had erected by dedicating their sweat and blood. Who had ever put those working people, forsaken by history, high on the pedestal? He thought.

He realized that the great Juche idea, based on a man-centred philosophy unheard-of in history, mounted working people of the DPRK on a platform of glory and happiness.

As it had no true philosophy of its own in the past, the Korean nation experienced the bitter fate of a ruined nation. And as he did not have a correct understanding of the idea of national independence, Choe had followed the path of treachery to his country by fawning upon foreign forces.

He could not quiet his thumping heart. It was as if he had discovered fire to save mankind from a dark age.

Only then did he understand the meaning of the words which had sounded strange to him and the unusual paeans about which he had entertained some doubts, after coming back to his homeland.

In the DPRK all the people regarded themselves as "masters".

Everywhere he visited—factories, rural communities, schools, hospitals, etc.—people were conducting themselves as masters and said without hesitation that they were masters of the country.

Their use of the word "master" sounded very unfamiliar to him.

The master of a factory means its owner, and the master of a farm its proprietor. If so, are all people in the north the factory owner or the farm proprietor?

He had thought that the word "master" could be used only to describe the power which was given according to how many shares one had in a factory or a farm.

He was able to clear away this doubt only by looking up at the Tower of the Juche Idea.

During his visit to his native village, his kinfolk never opened their mouths without saying, "We are happy". He could not but be skeptical about this point, though it was somewhat understandable.

After that he visited many other places in the DPRK. At that time, too, he thought the same.

Everywhere he went, he could hear and see the words "We are happy", but nowhere could he hear or find the words "We wish for happiness".

Across the country he could see people who were enjoying themselves, dancing and singing.

Even old folks, to say nothing of children and young men and women, were dancing together in their mirth on the riverside promenade.

All the people were happy as one man, their faces beaming with satisfaction.

He had thought that the meaning of happiness would differ according to the expectations of each individual in terms of their living conditions. But to his surprise, everything he saw and heard was similar, and the people's opinion was unanimous.

In the past, Koreans would put the words "Great fortune comes by an open gate" on the gates of their houses, in the hope that fortune would come in when opening the gate. They embroidered the word "pok" (fortune) on the pads attached to both sides of their pillows, gave names containing this word to their children and even carved the word on the ornamentation of their wardrobes, wishing for happiness.

He put various interpretations of why they did this, but he failed to find a clear answer.

However, the answer became

Choe Tok Sin enjoying himself at the Taesongsan Pleasure Ground.

On World Health Day

Korea Today reporter Sim Chol Yong recently interviewed Choe Ung Jun, 57, president of the Agency of State Health Control, in connection with the 54th World Health Day.

Question: Could you tell me more about World Health Day and the World Health Organization?

Answer: The WHO is an international organization which aims to promote people's health. It was inaugurated on April 7, 1948, and this day is annually commemorated as World Health Day.

The WHO'S mission is to help everyone lead the healthiest possible life. It has worked to root out the social evils that produce starvation, poverty and disease, and to provide a civilized living environment for people across the world.

The organization has been very successful in its international health activities.

In cooperation with the WHO, many countries are directing their attention to health work and are increasing their investment in this field as well as health research.

With this day as momentum every year, the WHO puts forward important themes related to health problems and conducts educational campaigns and practical programmes aimed at tackling them.

Last year, the WHO analyzed and reported on serious problems that pose a threat to people's mental and physical health. It called on its member nations to provide education on psychological illness and remove the social factors that cause such problems by adopting appropriate policies in the education, labour and health sectors.

Q: What's your programme for this year's World Health Day?

A: This year the WHO has appealed to its member nations to conduct active promotion of physical exercise, under the campaign titled "Physical Exercise for Health", and Korea is faithfully following this call.

Sports events suited to the fitness levels of people of all ages have been designated as state events, and physical exercise is being encouraged among young people.

On this day, various kinds of sports information, exercise instructions and mass sports games and amusement will be widely introduced through the mass media, sports magazines and television.

Q: What kind of cooperation is being conducted with the WHO in Korea?

A: More than 190 nations had joined the WHO by 1999. Our country joined the organization in May 1973.

We have regular contact with the WHO to contribute to international health work and strengthen exchange and cooperation.

The WHO is giving active scientific, technical and material assistance to Korea in the health sector.

The WHO director general's visit to Korea last November was of particular significance, and the opening of a WHO mission in Pyongyang has given momentum to the development of cooperation between us.

On this occasion, we extend our thanks to the WHO director general, and to the UNICEF, the UNFPA, Red Cross & Red Crescent International Federation, and other international organizations.

Korea is committed to further developing its work with the WHO and fulfilling its duties as a member nation.

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clear as he stood in front of the Tower of the Juche Idea.

He thought inwardly:

Someone said, "Everyone wants to get on a horse called happiness, but ultimately he himself becomes a horse, a horse carrying a load, namely a pending question: What is happiness?"

But the popular masses in the north have become the master of the saddle of happiness, and the creator and enjoyer of that happiness.

He finally discovered the answer he had so eagerly sought.

What enabled the people in the north to build a paradise on the ruins empty-handed, a paradise the like of which could be found nowhere else? It is the great Juche idea!

He was convinced of this fact and felt like shouting loudly so that his fellow Koreans could hear that the Juche idea is the greatest patriotic idea.

It was because he knew too well what was brought about by many isms put forward and assertions made by those who fancied themselves to be the "patriot" or the "leader".

Love for one's country lies in following the patriotic idea. If one follows the path of treachery one is found to be a traitor to one's country!

This self-evident truth had finally become clear to him. Looking up at the Tower of the Juche Idea, he stood riveted to the spot for a while.

(To be continued in the next issue)

Outrageous Crackdown

The Japanese investigation authorities recently mobilized over 300 prosecutors and police officers to commit an outrageous forced search of the central headquarters of Chongryon (General Association of Korean Residents in Japan). They also raided the Tokyo municipal headquarters and the West Tokyo headquarters of Chongryon simultaneously.

Since the end of September last year, the Japanese authorities, under the pretext of "evasion of inspection", have expanded their investigations to an unprecedented extent, making a number of forced searches and arrests at Korean credit unions and the financial agencies of Korean entrepreneurs and merchants in Japan. They have also encouraged the Japanese media to incite public vilification to greatly damage the reputation of Chongryon and its affiliates and Korean financial service organizations.

It is clear to everyone that their actions were part of a premeditated political strategy aimed at cracking down on Chongryon itself.

The Japanese reactionaries' criminal acts have incurred the wrath of all the Korean people, as well as that of Chongryon organizations and the 700,000 Koreans in Japan. They have also met with an angry response from the progressive people of the world.

Chongryon credit unions have been reorganized due to the financial difficulties caused by the depressed state of the Japanese economy. They have not been involved in illegal activities, nor the "evasion of inspection".

Ever since their inception, the Korean credit unions have abided by the laws of Japan in all their financial activities. Chongryon itself has done nothing in violation of Japanese laws and has made it clear to the Japanese government more than once that all its activities are legal under the laws of the country.

Under international law, Japanese authorities assume the legal duty of guaranteeing Chongryon's activities and respecting the democratic rights of Korean nationals in Japan.

Nevertheless, the Japanese authorities made a forced search of the central headquarters, taking issue with Chongryon, the respectable overseas citizens' organization of the DPRK, without any legal grounds. This is an unjustifiable criminal act and a deliberate attempt to suppress Chongryon and the Korean nationals in Japan. It is also a wanton violation of the dignity of the DPRK.

The Japanese authorities have not yet settled their criminal past and thoughtlessly take issue with Korean nationals in Japan, the direct victims to their forced drafting during their occupation of Korea, and Chongryon, their lawful organization, and clamp down on them. This amounts to a double crime.

The Japanese authorities have defined Chongryon as an "organization of an enemy state," and an object to which they should apply their "law on preventing destructive activities". They have intensified their repression under a variety of pretexts whenever the situation in Japan permitted it.

They have launched an anti-DPRK and anti-Chongryon campaign, refusing to apologise to the Korean people for their country's past crimes and settle their criminal past.

This is a clear expression of their wild ambition to invade Korea once again, which can never be tolerated.

The recent incidents are part of the first open political crackdown since Chongryon's inauguration. They took place at a time when Japan was putting its ambition for overseas invasion into practice under the guise of the war on terrorism.

The DPRK has no option but to keep a special vigilance against the Japanese government's actions.

The Japanese authorities must discontinue their political crackdown on Chongryon at once.

If they continue their anti-DPRK and anti-Chongryon campaign despite the DPRK's repeated warnings, they shall pay dearly for it. They must clearly understand this. ❑

Massacres Will Never Be Forgotten

The United States triggered off a war against Korea on June 25, 1950. But the US soldiers were soon counterattacked by the Korean People's Army. Fleeing southwards, they committed massacres in various places as revenge.

The most typical example was the one at Rogun-ri, Yongdong County, North Chungchong Province, where the GIs slaughtered innocent civilians.

According to an AP report dated September 29, 1999, US soldiers killed more than 400 people there over the four-day period from July 25 to 28, 1950.

Bombers were summoned by wireless to rain bombs on the civilian population. Those left alive were killed by machine-gun fire.

AP discovered and disclosed the order related to this incident issued by the 25th Division Command of the US Army, and reported the testimonies of ex-US soldiers who witnessed the atrocities.

According to these documents, the 25th Division Command issued an order to regard as "enemy" all the Koreans they caught in the Rogun-ri area. This inspired the GIs to kill the refugees, including children and women, at random.

In his recollection of the events of the time, an ex-GI eyewitness said:

"A messenger rushed up to us and delivered the order, 'Shoot them all. Don't leave a man alive.'"

"The order of the commander meant to shoot all moving objects. Questioned whether the refugees would also be included, he replied, 'Yes, he meant all moving things.'"

Broadcasting the content of the AP report, Japanese television station NHK said, "A US cavalry unit encountered hundreds of refugees under a bridge. The refugees were hiding under the bridge to escape US aerial attack, but they were machine-gunned by the US unit. The man who ordered the killing was the commander, whose name was Chundley."

The south Korean magazine *Mal* and other publications had already exposed the US barbarity in Yongdong on several occasions. As the truth behind the incident was revealed by the disclosure of the order of the US military by AP, the incident became an incontrovertible fact. The Rogun-ri incident was only one of many US atrocities.

As they were driven south, the US soldiers killed innocent civilians wherever they went.

On August 2, 1950, US troops shot to death over 80 people who were crossing the Woegwan and Toksung bridges in Chilgok and Koryong in North Kyongsang Province. The next day, following the division commander's order to "Blow them up", they blasted the two bridges together with hundreds of children, women and old people who were on them at the time.

According to eyewitnesses in the neighboring village and the testimonies of officers and servicemen of the US 1st Armored Division, the River Rakdong flowed with blood instead of water as a result of this incident.

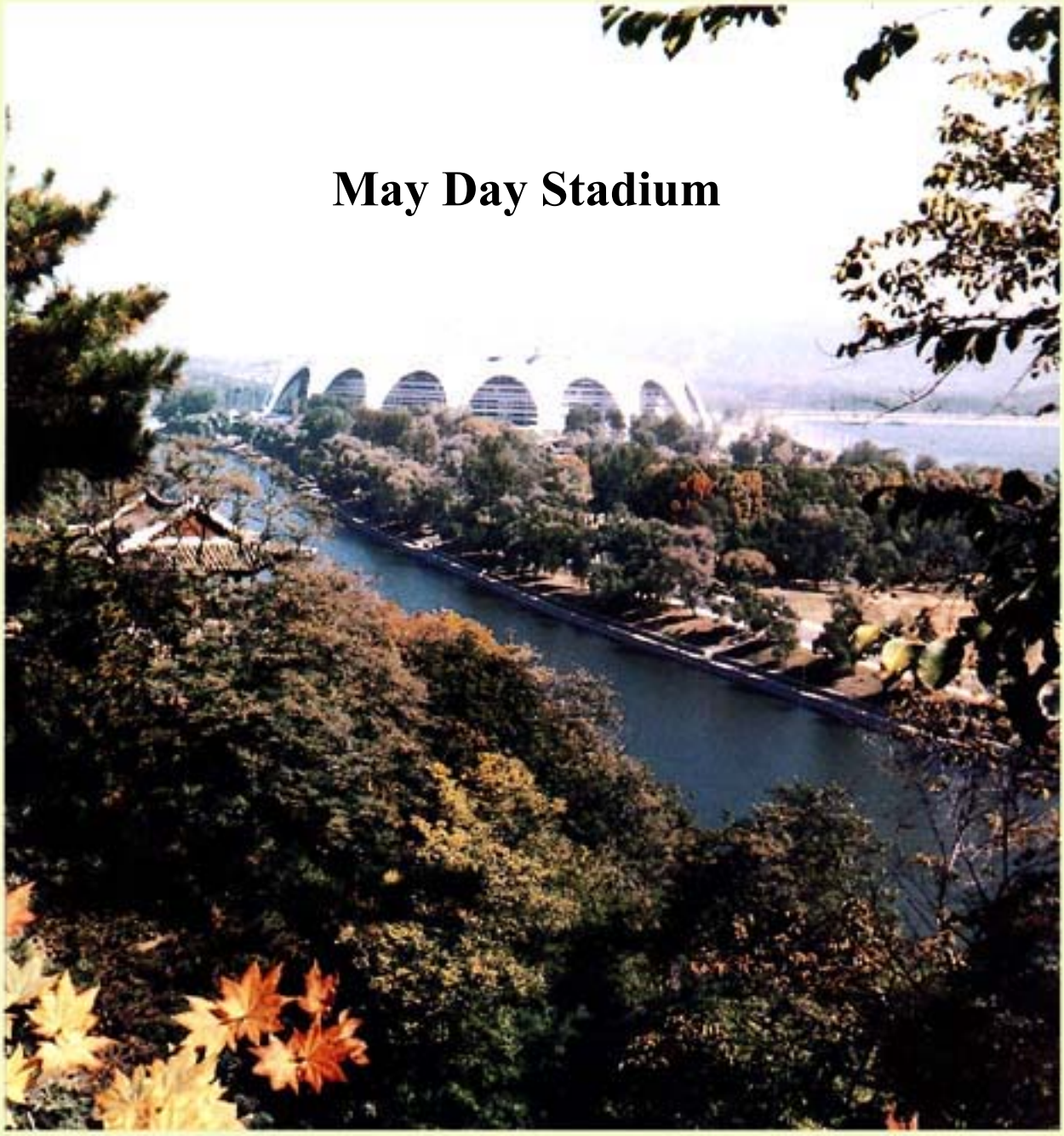
US troops killed more than 10,000 people in Seoul, 30,000 in Chunchon, 8,600 in Taejon, 4,000 in Jonju and thousands more in rural areas of south Korea.

While continuously disclosing more facts behind all the killings, including the Yongdong massacre, the Korean people are urging the US government to officially recognize the incidents, apologize and compensate for them.

The US occupation of south Korea is the root cause of all the misfortune and suffering of the Korean nation.

The US must bear responsibility for the incidents and withdraw its troops from south Korea at the earliest possible date. ❑

May Day Stadium



This photograph gives a distant view of the May Day Stadium on the beautiful Rungna Islet in the Taedong River, which flows through Pyongyang, capital of the DPRK. The stadium was completed in May Juche 78 (1989).

Its original style resembles a landing parachute. The chute-shaped roof protrudes 60m inwards and 40m outwards.

The stadium's internal floor space is over 207,000 square metres, with its main sports arena covering more than 22,500 square metres. The field is covered with grass, while the track is coated with rubber.

The double-tiered seating area can accomodate 150,000 people in all, and more than 1,300 rooms are housed in the eight storeys below it.

Many international and domestic competitions have taken place at the stadium, most notably the opening and closing ceremonies of the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students.

It will be the venue for the 100,000-strong gymnastic and artistic performance "Arirang", scheduled to run from late April. ❑